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Welcome to Dakota!

April Fools!

Yes, that news release from the Governor's office about the lost documents claiming that South Dakota and North Dakota was actually just Dakota was an April Fools Joke from the Governor!

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Now that the first two weeks of free agency are complete, it's time to expand our view and look at the big free agent signings around the rest of the NFL. For the purpose of this article, we'll avoid any players who were re-signed or franchise tagged by the team they played for last season. But first, let's get any Vikings related news out of the way first: after cutting wide receiver Jarius Wright this offseason, the Vikings signed Kendall Wright to replace him. The Vikings also re-signed Marcus Sherels, who will once again handle the punt return duties.

Around the NFL, the biggest free agent signing of this offseason was certainly Kirk Cousins. The second-best signing is at a position that doesn't get a lot of praise: offensive line. Andrew Norwell, an offensive guard that played in Carolina last season, signed a massive deal in Jacksonville. He is one of the best guards in the NFL, and he will help solidify the offensive line for a team that has a great defense and went to the AFC Championship game last season (where they lost to the Patriots 20-24).

There were a couple safeties available in free agency this year that could possibly be difference makers on their new teams. In one of the biggest surprise moves of the offseason, safety Tyrann Mathieu was released by the Arizona Cardinals. Mathieu is only 26 years old and is one of the best defensive players in the NFL when healthy. He signed with the Houston Texans on a one-year deal, which will allow him to sign a massive deal next offseason. Morgan Burnett, the 29-year old safety from Green Bay, elected to sign with the Oakland Raiders. He still has a few years of productive play left in the tank, and will look to provide a veteran presence to a team that is undergoing a lot of changes (moving from Oakland to Las Vegas and hiring a new head coach).

Another position that had a lot of great players available this offseason is defensive tackle. The Vikings signed the best of the bunch (Sheldon Richardson), but there were two more who can be free agent steals. Ndamukong Suh was given one of the largest contracts in NFL history a couple years ago, but with the Miami Dolphins needing to reset their roster, Suh was cut this offseason to clear up cap space. Suh ended up signing a one-year deal with the Los Angeles Rams, where he will play next to the best defensive tackle in the NFL, Aaron Donald. Another young defensive lineman who was once considered one of the best at his position, Muhammad Wilkerson was cut by the New York Jets and ended up signing with Green Bay. Both Suh and Wilkerson signed one-year deals with their new teams, which will allow them to cash in next offseason if they play well this year.

The Green Bay Packers are the biggest rival to Minnesota in the NFC North. The Packers are not usually active in free agency, but they went out and spent some money this year. Besides signing Wilkerson, they also signed tight end Jimmy Graham, cornerback Tramon Williams, and traded for quarterback DeShone Kizer. The Packers have a lot of holes in their roster, but as long as they have Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, they will be a threat.

The Detroit Lions brought in a new head coach this offseason, so their roster is going through a massive change. The Lions have brought in 12 players in free agency so far: running back LeGarrette Blount, tight ends Luke Wilson and Levine Toilolo, offensive linemen Kenny Wiggins and Wesley Johnson, defensive tackle Sylvester Williams, linebackers Christian Jones, Devon Kennard and Jonathan Freeny, cornerbacks Nevin Lawson and DeShawn Shead, and safety Tavon Wilson.

The Chicago Bears are looking to build on last year with a young roster that is up and coming. In an attempt to keep moving in the right direction, the Bears have brought in 14 free agents: quarterbacks Chase Daniel and Tyler Bray, wide receivers Allen Robinson and Taylor Gabriel, tight end Trey Burton, defensive end Aaron Lynch, linebackers Sam Acho and John Timu, cornerbacks Kyle Fuller, Prince Amukamara, Sherrick McManis and Marcus Cooper, kicker Cody Parkey, punter Pat O'Donnell, and long snapper Patrick Scales.

Check back next week, when we turn our attention from free agency to the draft. Next week we will cover the Vikings' draft needs on offense. If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@SkolJWright)!

Orphan Trains and the Best Interest of the Child

My Grandmother, Axie Jackson Powell, died at 99 having lived a blessed yet tragic life. As a young girl she lost her father and two step-fathers to illness. Her mother, struggling to raise four children alone and out of desperation, put Axie and two of her siblings into an orphanage. Axie grew up separated from her mother.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

The history of adoption is as old as humankind, with family members commonly raising children orphaned by death, war, or economic destruction. The middle ages introduced the concept of the orphanage when babies were left at the door of monasteries and were then raised within the institution of the church. But much of what the world knows about adoption, and how to protect orphans, actually stems from the orphan trains of the U.S. in the late 1800s. The American Civil War and increased immigration brought about orphanage over-crowding and resulted in huge numbers of homeless children roaming the streets of urban cities on the east coast. A group of religious leaders spearheaded a solution by shipping orphaned children on trains to the rural west.

Over the next 70 years, as many as 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children were placed on trains and sent to the farms of rural foster families in the west. It was the largest mass relocation of children to ever occur and helped establish the foster care system in America. While many lost children were introduced into families where discipline and love gave them a chance for a reasonable life, some of these children were indentured and exploited, rather than adopted, and were made to become farm laborers and household servants.

Because of the orphan train social experiment, laws to protect children from abuse were developed. The best example was the Minnesota adoption law of 1917 which required background checks for families who wished to adopt and careful follow-up after placement. This effort, to ensure the best interest of the child by encouraging and monitoring foster homes and adoption, spread throughout the country and parentless children went to orphanages only when other options failed.

Although this societal responsibility to children spread globally, families in the U.S. presently adopt more children than the rest of the world combined. That said, right now there are 110,000 foster children in the U.S. eligible and waiting to be adopted, and every year 23,000 children age out of foster care without having found a permanent family.

There are plenty of Axies out there. The gift of "family" by fostering or adopting is a win-win proposition.

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Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for **full time and part time CNA's**. 12 hr. shifts- days and nights (SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)

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Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts (WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

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For more information, call 605-492-3615

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Under the direction of the Facility Administrator, the Maintenance Supervisor oversees the daily operations of the Maintenance. Performs maintenance and repair of physical structures of buildings.

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same mileage, fewer

carbon deposits, lower

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genotoxic, carcinogenic

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*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for

info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

PSA: Courtesy Merle

Anderson (Merle is 94

year old founder of Ace

and legendary ethanol

supporter... "because it is

the right thing to do")

HOUGHTON/HECLA AREA LAND FOR SALE

Houghton/Hecla area real estate located 4 miles South and 2 miles East of Hecla, owned by the Estate of Florence Evelyn Peterson, will be sold at auction, cash sale only, the following described real estate:

- Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 127 North, Range 60 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Approximately 162.46 acres of land (19.63 cropland, 142.83 pasture)

Seller makes no representation as to the actual number of acres contained in this description.

Bid opening and auction will take place at 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in the Hecla Community Room located at 202 Main Street, Hecla, South Dakota.

Terms of Sale: Sealed bids can be mailed to the office of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., ATTN: Lonald L. Gellhaus, PO Box 73, Aberdeen, SD 57402-0073 or brought to the auction. Please contact Teresa at 605-225-6522 to request a bid packet. Each sealed bid must include a Bid Sheet.

Earnest money of 10% upon acceptance of bid made payable to "Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. Trust Account". Title insurance and closing fees shall be split equally between Buyer and Seller. Balance due upon closing and delivery of good title. 2017 real estate taxes due in 2018 will be paid by the Seller. 2018 real estate taxes due in 2019 will be the responsibility of the Buyer.

Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Lonald L. Gellhaus, of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., represents the Seller. For additional information, please contact Lonald L. Gellhaus at 605-225-6522.

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Today in Weather History

April 2, 1998: The James River began to flood in early April from Columbia to Stratford. The James rose to around 1.5 feet above flood stage at Columbia and Stratford through April into May. The James River mainly flooded farmland, pastureland, and a few roads in the vicinity of the channel.

April 2, 2010: In South Dakota, a band of heavy snow set up across Corson and Dewey counties during the early morning hours of April 2nd. Along with heavy wet snow, northwest winds gusting up to 40 mph developed. By the time the storm ended in the late morning hours, 6 to 8 inches of snow had fallen. The heavy snow, combined with the strong winds, downed many power poles across the region along with making travel treacherous. Some snowfall amounts included; 4 inches at Eagle Butte; 6 inches at Timber Lake, McLaughlin, and 14 miles north of Isabel; 7 inches at Isabel and 6 miles southeast of McIntosh; 8 inches southwest of Keldron. More than 400 poles were lost to the heavy snow leaving approximately 800 people without power. Eighty linemen worked through the Easter weekend in the snow and mud. McLaughlin and Keldron were the hardest hit. Several hundred people were still without power on April 5th.

1936: An estimated F4 tornado cut a 15-mile path through Crisp County, GA. The hardest hit area was the town of Cordele, where 276 homes were destroyed in a five-block swath through the town. The storm was on a course that would have missed the center of town, but it made a left turn towards the end of its path. 23 people were killed and 500 injured. Total damage was \$3 million.

1957: An F3 tornado tore through Dallas, TX. 10 people were killed, and 216 were injured. Total damage was \$1.5 million. This tornado was among the most photographed and studied in history.

1982: Severe thunderstorms spawned fifty-six tornadoes in the central U.S., including seventeen in the Red River Region of Texas and Oklahoma. The tornadoes claimed thirty lives and injured 383 other persons. A violent tornado near Messer, Oklahoma left only the carpet tack strips on the slab of a house it destroyed and carried a motel sign thirty miles.

1975 - The northeastern U.S. was in the grips of a severe storm which produced hurricane force winds along the coast, and two to three feet of snow in Maine and New Hampshire. Winds atop Mount Washington NH gusted to 140 mph. (David Ludlum)

1975 - The biggest snowstorm of record for so late in the season paralyzed Chicago, IL. Up to 20 inches of snow fell in extreme northeastern Illinois, and 10.9 inches of snow closed Chicago's O'Hare Airport. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Severe thunderstorms spawned fifty-six tornadoes in the central U.S., including seventeen in the Red River Region of Texas and Oklahoma. The tornadoes claimed thirty lives, and injured 383 other persons. A violent tornado near Messer OK left only the carpet tack strips on the slab of a house it destroyed, and carried a motel sign thirty miles. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Eleven cities in Florida reported record low temperatures for the date, including Tallahassee with a reading of 31 degrees. The low of 48 degrees at Key West smashed their previous record for the date by 13 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced up to nine inches of rain around New Orleans LA causing 18 million dollars damage. A tornado caused three million dollars damage at Slidell LA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed from California to Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 50 mph at Lancaster CA, and reached 85 mph at Berthoud Pass CO. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in the Colorado Rockies. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in North Carolina and Virginia during the afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail, and spawned a tornado near Chester VA which caused half a million dollars damage. A storm system produced snow and gale force winds across northern Michigan, with 8.3 inches of snow reported at Marquette. Temperatures in the north central U.S. soared from morning lows in the 20s and 30s to afternoon highs in the 60s and 70s. Eight cities reported record highs for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 77 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

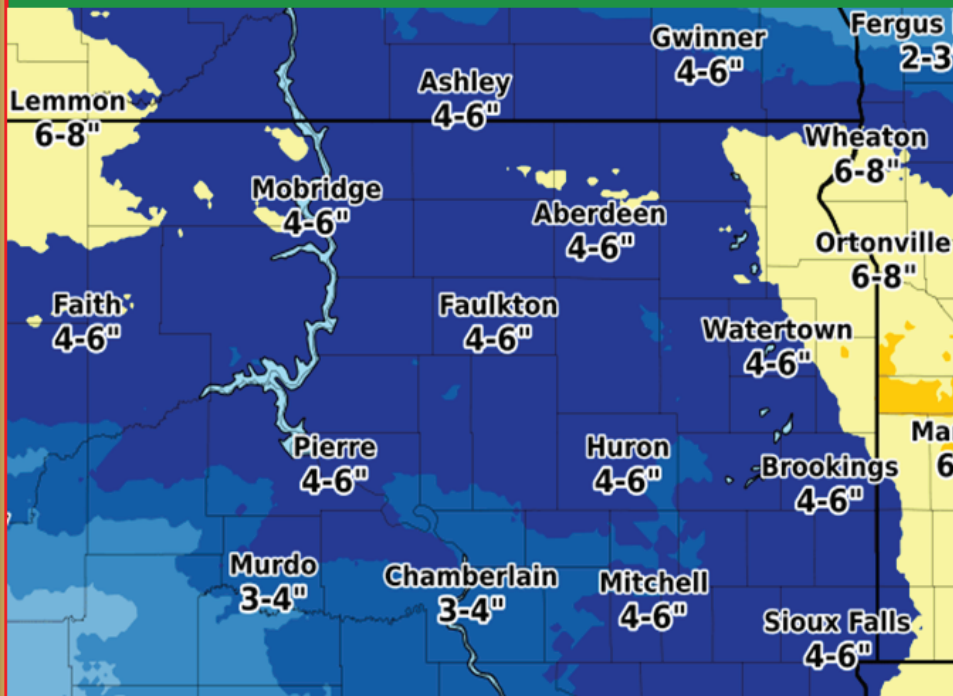
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Mon Apr 2	Tue Apr 3	Wed Apr 4	Thu Apr 5	Fri Apr 6	Sat Apr 7	Sun Apr 8
32°F 14°F	19°F 5°F	33°F 14°F	34°F 14°F	29°F 14°F	34°F 23°F	39°F 32°F
SE 16 MPH Precip 70%	N 22 MPH Precip 60%	SSW 8 MPH	NNW 11 MPH	NNW 9 MPH	SE 10 MPH Precip 20%	SE 18 MPH Precip 50%

Snow Returns

Forecast Snow Amounts Today through midday Tuesday



1-2 inches of snow today. An additional 2 to 5 inches tonight into Tuesday morning

North winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph beginning tonight



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 4/2/2018 4:48 AM Central

Published on: 04/02/2018 at 4:53AM

An early spring storm system will bring accumulating snow to the area beginning across the north and east this morning, then spreading over the entire area tonight into Tuesday morning. Gusty north winds will develop tonight, and with the falling snow, may create low visibility and hazardous driving conditions. A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect through midday Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 34.1 F at 6:04 PM

Low Outside Temp: 11.0 F at 6:55 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 2:15 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 84° in 1921

Record Low: 3° in 1975

Average High: 49°F

Average Low: 26°F

Average Precip in April: 0.09

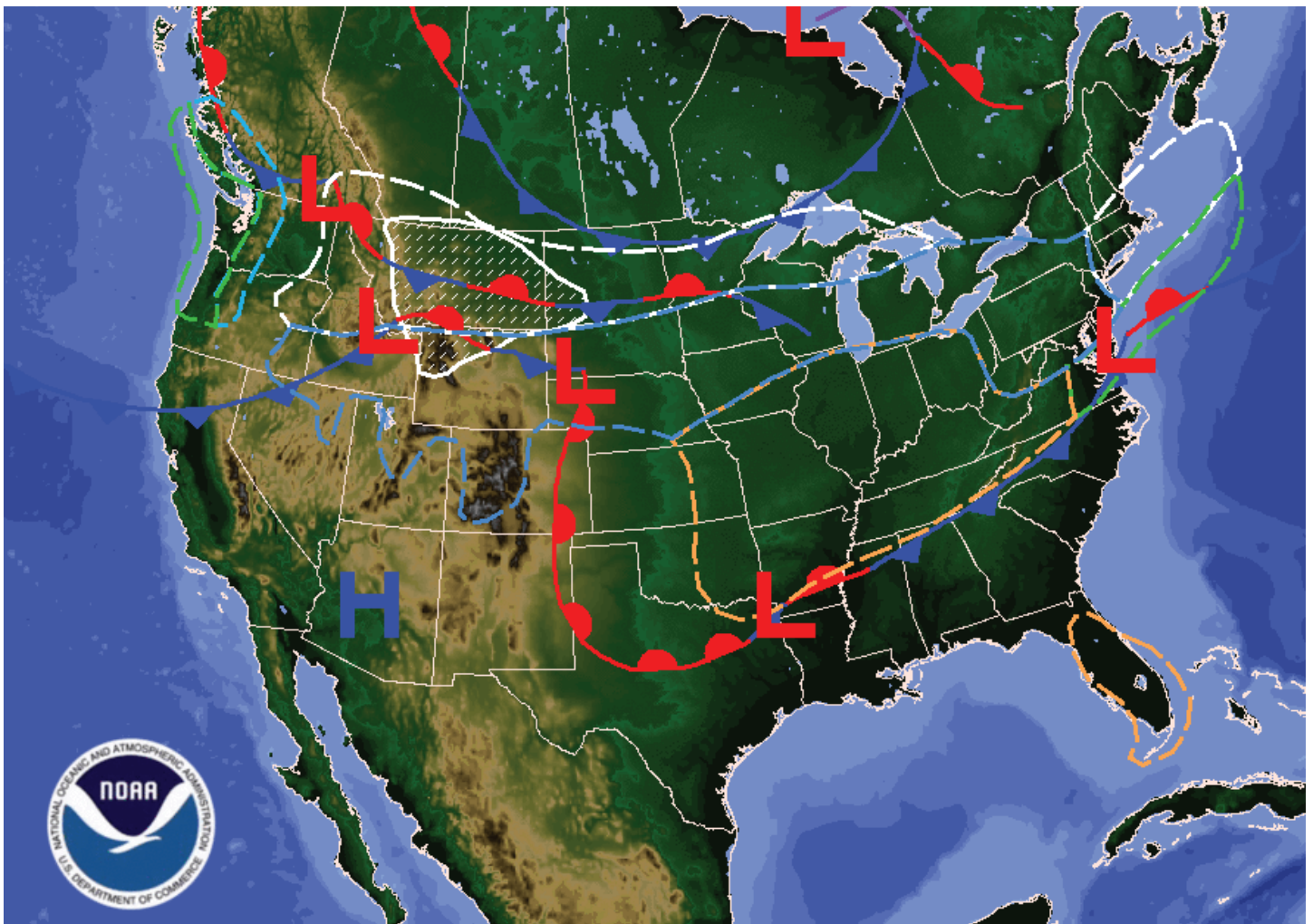
Precip to date in April: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.27

Precip Year to Date: 2.07

Sunset Tonight: 8:03 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:10 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Apr 02, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain	Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Rain and T'Storms	Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Rain and Snow	Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Snow	Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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ARE YOU THERE, GOD?

It was time for her prayers before jumping into bed. Little Susie began her prayer by thanking God for all His blessings that day. She did good on her tests, and her best friend came to visit her after school. So she spent a special time thanking Him for all the good things He did for her that day. But when it was time for her to conclude her prayer, she said, "Good night, Dear Jesus, wherever You are. We're moving to New York in the morning. It's been nice talking to You. Amen." To her, Jesus could only hear her prayers if she was in the right place at the right time.

There are times when each of us feels that God is not paying attention to us when we pray. It seems as though the doors of heaven are locked tight, and God is too busy to hear us. Or maybe we've moved away from Him, and He no longer cares about us or our needs. Even the writer of Psalm 102:1 felt that way when he wrote: "Hear my prayer, O Lord, let my cry for help come to You."

This was no ordinary prayer. He was desperate and begged God for His attention. He sensed a distance between himself and God, was in a crisis and could not endure this sense of alienation. And he continued by saying, "Do not hide from me - answer me quickly!"

Perhaps a lesson we can learn from this prayer is that God's "time-piece" is different from ours. It includes eternity. We must always remember that He is at work in and with us shaping us into Christ's likeness.

Prayer: Grant us patience, Father, as we wait before You, knowing that You are doing things we cannot see. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 102:1 Hear my prayer, O Lord, And let my cry come to You.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/13/2018 Elementary School Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the  Associated Press

2 plead not guilty to embezzling from Crow Creek Sioux tribe

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two people have pleaded not guilty to embezzling from the Crow Creek Sioux tribe. The U.S. Attorney's Office says 53-year-old Lana Steele of Chamberlain is accused of stealing more than \$1,000 from the Crow Creek District Business Committee.

Forty-two-year-old Christopher Rabbit of Fort Thompson is accused of stealing more than \$1,000 from the tribe's Solid Waste Management Program.

Both Steele and Rabbit face up to five years in prison and restitution if convicted. Both have been released on bond pending trial.

University of Sioux Falls student athlete killed in crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — University of Sioux Falls officials say a student athlete has died in a traffic crash and another has been seriously injured.

Head football coach Jon Anderson says junior wide receiver Courtney Beane was killed in the crash Sunday morning in Sioux Falls. Junior defensive end Jared Brito was seriously injured. Anderson says team members are distraught and are praying for Jared's recovery.

The coach says Beane was part of the 2018 recruiting class and quickly found his place in the football program.

Authorities say the driver lost control, hit a bridge guard rail head on, traveled down a levee embankment and came to rest under the bridge. Officials say speed contributed to the accident. The school is a Christian liberal arts university in Sioux Falls.

Report: Midwest business conditions index rose again

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A report says a business conditions index for nine Midwest and Plains states has surged again — a sign of continued improvement in regional economic conditions.

The report released Monday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index hit 62.1 in March, compared with 59.7 in February. The January figure was 57.3.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says 20 percent of the survey participants reported rapidly expanding economic growth in their areas.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Pedestrian struck and killed in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a man was struck and killed while crossing a street in Rapid City. Police say the 38-year-old Rapid City man was killed about 8 p.m. Sunday while walking across a busy street outside of the crosswalk. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The victim has not yet been identified.

Huether blazes her own trail as mayor's wife

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, Yankton Press & Dakotan

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Cindy (Loecker) Huether is perhaps best known as the First Lady of Sioux Falls since 2010, married to Mayor Mike Huether for 32 years.

However, the Yankton native has tackled a number of projects in her own right. She has served the

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hungry and homeless, promoted the health sciences and contributed to the construction and operation of a new tennis complex.

The Yankton Press & Dakotan reports that Cindy Huether graduated from Yankton High School in 1982. Her mother, Marilyn Loecker, still lives in Yankton. Her father, Vern Loecker, passed away last year.

Cindy Huether recalled enjoying her early years in Yankton.

"It was a great time to grow up," she said. "It was wonderful having the (Lewis and Clark) lake right there (outside of town). There were many summers where I went to the lake and had fun with friends."

The good times continued through her teenage years, she said.

"I loved my time at Yankton High School. We just had great teachers," she said. "I was into gymnastics and was involved with the school newspaper. I was a cheerleader in football and was part of the first year that (South Dakota) had high school playoffs. That was an interesting memory. We lost to (Sioux Falls) O'Gorman in the championship game."

After graduation, Huether attended South Dakota State University in Brookings. There, she earned her medical technology degree and also found her future husband.

Ironically, the Huethers both attended YHS at the same time but didn't know each other until after graduation.

"We met the summer after I graduated from high school," Cindy said. "I had known Mike's brother, Greg, who was in my grade. Through Greg, I met Mike and we dated while at SDSU. "

The Huethers married and lived in Sioux Falls. Cindy worked as a medical technologist at then-Sioux Valley Hospital, which is now Sanford Health. Mike graduated with a degree in commercial economics. He began work in management for Citibank South Dakota, spending five years in the state. He then spent five years in Buffalo, New York, and five years in San Antonio, Texas, before working in seven European countries.

"We returned to Sioux Falls in 1999," Cindy said. "We were building a house at the time. With the move (back to South Dakota), the new house and raising (our daughter) Kylie, I didn't go right back to work."

However, Cindy remained busy in many other ways.

Besides his business career, Mike entered Sioux Falls politics. The decision may not have been surprising, considering that Mike was elected president of both his junior and senior classes at Yankton High School and as student body vice president while attending South Dakota State University.

"Mike has wanted to be in public service since sixth grade," Cindy said. "He always knew that he wanted to go into (politics), and the family has been very supportive of him. He has a talent for it, and he's so good at what he does."

Mike's talent and drive led him to the Sioux Falls mayor's seat. He won his first term in 2010 and was re-elected in 2014. He cannot run again for mayor because of term limits and leaves office this spring.

The Huethers try to draw a line between their public and personal lives where possible. Mike waited until 2010, when his daughter had left home, before making his mayoral run.

"My dad wasn't around much when I was growing up, and I didn't want to do the same thing to Kylie," Mike told the Press & Dakotan at the time.

However, politics was very much a part of the Huether household through the years, Cindy said.

"We've always been kind of involved with politics," she said. "Growing up with Kylie, we always had dinner together. Part of the conversation was talking politics."

Mike holds strong convictions, but he also uses his wife as a sounding board without violating confidential matters.

"Mike and I have very similar beliefs. He asks me for advice. I give it, but that doesn't mean that he listens to it," Cindy said with a laugh. "Obviously, there are things that he needs to keep to himself or with his (mayoral) staff."

Cindy has gained a great deal of insight into the complexities of her husband's role as mayor.

"You have to do what's in the best interest of the city and not what is wanted by a lot of special interests," she said. "I don't think people realize there is much more to decision making than what they read in the news or see covered (by radio and television)."

As First Lady, she fills a number of ceremonial roles.

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"It's a title, and you don't have to do (any specific duties) for it," she said. "But it's a big thing. You have all the events that Mike has to attend, and I go with him. It's an opportunity to spend time with him, but it also helps me understand his role and the different areas that he's working on (as mayor)."

However, Cindy's life doesn't revolve strictly around her role as First Lady of Sioux Falls.

The Huethers attend Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Sioux Falls. During the past 15 years, they have been involved in the Banquet and the St. Francis House ministries. The Banquet provides meals to those in need, while the St. Francis House offers transitional housing for the homeless.

"The St. Francis House allows people to save money so they can eventually acquire housing," Cindy said. "The homeless can go there for help. During the day, they have to go to a job and can return overnight. It's the first step in the ladder and allows them to become independent."

Besides her ministry work, Cindy has remained committed to improving health care in South Dakota. She serves on the board of the College of Pharmacy and Lab Sciences at SDSU. She was presented a ceremonial "white coat" for her work and stewardship in medical technology and lab sciences. In addition, she has a laboratory named in her honor at SDSU that is used by medical technology students.

Cindy sees her work as part of increasing the number of medical professionals in the Rushmore State.

"It's really important, especially in helping the rural areas," she said. "We're also seeing an increasing number of older people in our state (who will need more care). We need to attract and keep our health care professionals."

In recent years, Cindy has developed a passion for tennis both as a player and as a promoter of the sport. She currently serves as board chairman of the Huether Family Match Pointe facility in Sioux Falls.

She has served as longtime president of the Sioux Falls Tennis Association. She was named a South Dakota Tennis Hero and the nation's Tennis Advocate of the Year. In addition, the Huethers were named the United States Tennis Family of the Year by the U.S. Tennis Association, the first South Dakota family to win the honor.

For Cindy, tennis became a family affair both on and off the court.

"I started playing tennis when I was 40. I didn't really play tennis until Kylie started with the sport," Cindy said. "When we moved back to Sioux Falls in 1999, Kylie played tennis for Washington High School and we went to watch her. She went on to play for the College of St. Benedict (in Minnesota). I just developed a love for the game."

As part of her love for tennis, Cindy wanted to see Sioux Falls develop an indoor facility accessible for the general public.

"The Huether Family Cross Pointe facility isn't just for the people of Sioux Falls. We have lots of kids and adults from around the area who come here," she said. "I think what makes me most proud is that the facility is very affordable. There is no membership fee. We just want to be able to give families an opportunity to play tennis all year round."

The Huethers are transitioning out of public life, at least for now. Mike shows no signs of easing up on his "to-do" list as he hits the home stretch as mayor. After that, the Huethers plan to spend more time with their grandchild and to enjoy other pursuits.

However, that doesn't rule out Mike's return to public service in some form.

As she completes her role as First Lady of Sioux Falls, Cindy marvels at how much the city has changed since she returned two decades ago. She noted the changes even in the eight years during Mike's tenure, when Sioux Falls grew from 150,000 residents to around 180,000 — and more than 250,000 in the metro area.

"We had lived in big cities (after getting married). When we returned to Sioux Falls in 1999, I did miss all the activities you could do in a big city," she said. "But I think one of the great things now about Sioux Falls is that we have many of those same activities, just not on a bigger scale. You can be busy because there's so much going on all the time."

The Huethers maintain their Yankton ties, returning to the community for family gatherings. In addition, they attended Yankton's games last week as the Bucks won the State "AA" boys' basketball crown

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in Sioux Falls.

"I didn't know it was 40 years since Yankton last won the state boys basketball championship," Cindy said. "We enjoyed the games, and it was just really fun to see some of (our Yankton friends) and their children."

Cindy has enjoyed her time as First Lady of Sioux Falls, adding she will relish the special relationships she has grown during the past eight years. The Huethers have received words of thanks and appreciation, she said.

"It's just been really rewarding," Cindy said. "At a time when people are really negative or apathetic, it's nice to have people thank you for the sacrifices you make."

In many ways, the best is yet to come, she said.

"Hopefully, this is the start of more good things," she added.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Pierre brewery looking forward to expansion under new law

By NICK LOWREY, Pierre Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's microbreweries will get the chance to tap into more customers in the coming months thanks to a new law signed on March 22 by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The Pierre Capital Journal reports that the Republican governor said last week the new law is an "economic development win" that will help the state's homegrown microbreweries expand and thrive. Daugaard had pushed for the brewing overhaul, contending state regulations were stifling the industry.

That was true for Pierre's own Bill of Right Brewery. Though, owner Brian Trimble said, not because he wanted to get his beer to thirsty South Dakotans without going through a third-party distributor. In fact, he can't do that. He doesn't have the infrastructure to ship enough beer to, say, Rapid City to make the venture profitable.

"None of us have any reason to totally cut out the distributors," Trimble said.

The limiting factor for Trimble has been that until the new rules were made law, he couldn't so much as leave his brewery in possession of his own beer. He had to work with a distributor to schlep a keg of his beer across town to a tasting event or festival. The same was true for out of town events. That could get expensive, Trimble said.

Trimble said just being able to take his beer to festivals or other tasting events could be a boon.

"It's going to make it a whole lot easier to expand," he said. "It's going to be great to be able to expose South Dakota craft beers to people."

The legislation creates a microbrewery license allowing the businesses to produce 30,000 barrels of beer annually, up from 5,000 barrels. Breweries that exceed the current 5,000-barrel limit would lose privileges such as being able to sell growlers.

It also permits craft brewers to bypass distributors to sell up to 1,500 barrels of their beer each year directly to bars.

Trimble said he was excited at the prospect of being able to collaborate with bars and other breweries on events such as tap takeovers, in which a brewery takes over the taps at a bar to give people a chance to try new beers. Trimble also has designed a beer he hopes to sell at Pierre Trappers baseball games.

Being able to make six times more beer in a year and sell some beer independently of distributors, likely will benefit South Dakota's larger craft brewers more, Trimble said. Still, the extra freedom probably will lead to more independent brewers popping up in the state, Trimble said.

"We're excited for (the new law) to take effect," Trimble said.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

South Dakota to hold drawing for candidate ballot order

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota official is set to hold a drawing to determine the order in which candidates appear on the June primary ballot.

Deputy Secretary of State of Election Services Kea Warne will conduct the drawing Monday for statewide and legislative candidates' ballot orders.

Officials say the public is welcome to attend the drawing. State law says candidates or their representatives have the right to be present when ballot order is determined.

Key details still to solve in Capitol sex harassment policy

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota lawmakers are setting procedures for handling reports of sexual harassment in the Capitol. Here's a closer look at the process.

HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

No cases of sexual harassment have been documented at the Capitol in recent years, but lawmakers in December decided to update the state's two-paragraph policy following a wave of complaints in the national political and entertainment worlds amid the #MeToo movement against sexual violence and workplace harassment.

State policy already says sexual harassment won't be tolerated, but there's no process spelled out for reporting complaints.

IS THIS HAPPENING IN OTHER STATES?

It is. Many state legislatures have struggled with accusations or stories of sexual harassment in recent months, including nearby South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The National Conference of State Legislatures says there has been an unprecedented amount of legislation on the subject around the country this year. The NCSL website details bills in 29 states.

"States have introduced legislation to expel members, criminalize sexual harassment in legislatures, and mandate harassment training within the legislature, among other topics," the organization says.

WHAT IS NORTH DAKOTA'S PROPOSAL?

The proposed three-page policy crafted by the Legislative Council — the Legislature's research arm — addresses all forms of workplace harassment, including sexual harassment and harassment based on race, religion, ancestry or disabilities. It lists to whom complaints can be reported and crafts a process for resolving them.

The policy is for lawmakers, legislative employees, and "third parties" including lobbyists and reporters.

Officials looked at other states' policies while drawing up North Dakota's proposal, according to Legislative Council Legal Division Director John Bjornson.

It contains some of the elements that the NCSL lists as important, such as clearly defining what harassment is and applying the rules to third parties as well as lawmakers and staff.

It does not include some other elements, such as specific examples of potential discipline for lawmakers.

Lawmakers could be censured, but House Majority Leader Al Carlson says what that entails isn't clear and "needs to be spelled out."

"Sometimes that's the best deterrent, knowing what the repercussions would be," he said.

WHAT ARE OTHER POTENTIAL ISSUES?

Members of the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee, which has the authority to adopt a policy, discussed numerous concerns and potential problems with the proposal at a recent meeting.

Among other things, lawmakers plan to look at whether those designated to take complaints would have time during a legislative session to adequately investigate, and whether the field of people who can handle complaints should be expanded.

"I also want to make sure that we don't use (the policy) for political purposes," Senate Minority Leader Joan Heckaman said.

The proposal says records of complaints wouldn't be open to the public during active investigations, but

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that shield would be limited to no more than 75 days from the date of a complaint. However, it also says some records might constitute a Legislative Council "work product," which is shielded from public disclosure.

Media attorney Jack McDonald said that might be a stretch. He says he doesn't think the law was intended to cover up complaints.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Janelle Moos, a registered lobbyist and executive director of the CAWS North Dakota nonprofit that represents domestic violence and sexual assault crisis intervention centers, said the proposed policy is a good first step that still needs work.

The Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee will continue fine-tuning it. The group is to meet again in June.

"We definitely want to go into the (2019) session with a plan," Carlson said, though he also added "we don't want to get it so complicated we could never get (an investigation) done in a session."

Lawmakers also said there is a need for sexual harassment training during the session.

"I think that education would save us lots of money and lots of time later on," Carlson said.

Democratic Rep. Kathy Hogan also stressed the need for extra training of people designated to handle complaints.

"One of the consequences if you don't ask the right questions, if the victims don't feel listened to, that's when you get your retaliation claims," she said.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Horse racing now set in Fort Pierre

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Horse races will be taking place this spring in Fort Pierre following some doubts last fall.

The Verendrye Benevolent Association had decided against continuing the races due to funding woes, The Capital Journal reported . But those problems were addressed at the Commission on Gaming's recent meeting in Deadwood.

The commission's executive secretary, Larry Eliason, says some agenda items had positive outcomes for the association, including the commission providing an additional \$12,050 for insurance in case the event is cancelled and to cover injuries to exercise riders.

The commission also approved the association's request to shift about \$4,000 of its \$170,000 allocation from purses to operations.

Association board member Shane Kramme said he was "very pleased and very appreciative" of the work that the commission had done. He said he will be meeting with insurance reps to make sure that coverage is in place by April 1.

According to Kramme, some owners already have their horses on the grounds and bedded down, but they can't get on the track until insurance is in place.

The association has organized the races for the last 70 years. They'll be held at Stanley County Fairgrounds and are scheduled for April 28-29 and May 5-6.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Mitchell receives 3 Oscar Howe painting donations

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A former Mitchell resident has donated three original Oscar Howe paintings to the city's Carnegie Resource Center.

Howe is well-known in Mitchell for designing murals on the Corn Palace from 1949 to 1971 and for painting the mural on the inside of the Carnegie Resource Center's dome, the Daily Republic reported .

Rapid City resident Dick Weller contacted Lyle Swenson, president of the Mitchell Area Historical Society, to see if the organization wanted the donations. The historical society is housed in the Carnegie Resource

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Center.

"We're honored to get them," said Swenson. "It adds authenticity to what we're doing here."

Weller said it's time for the public to enjoy the Oscar Howe paintings since his family has for the past 70 years. The Weller family was close with Howe and his wife, Heidi, who lived nearby on the Dakota Wesleyan University campus, according to Weller.

"As a kid, I used to watch him paint in both studios," Weller wrote in the email. "He was a very soft-spoken, kind man."

Two of the donated paintings, "Indian Princess at Leisure" and "Indian Princess at Work" are already hanging in the center's foyer. They were likely painted in the late 1940s and early 1950s, according to Weller.

The third painting, "Untitled (Indian Head Profile)," will be hung soon. It'll join the other two in a spot out of direct sunlight.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Largest Syrian rebel group starts leaving Damascus enclave

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The most powerful Syrian rebel faction on the fringes of Damascus began abandoning its stronghold in the once rebel-held enclave of eastern Ghouta on Monday, opening the way for government forces to secure full control of the area, after seven years of revolt.

The first fighters from the Army of Islam left the town of Douma around midday as part of an evacuation deal that will hand the town to the Syrian government, reported the state SANA news agency.

The rebels were headed to Jarablus, a town in northern Syria where control of the territory is shared between Syrian rebels and Turkish forces.

The Syrian government dispatched more than 50 buses to Douma to take the rebels out, SANA reported. By mid-afternoon, eight buses had departed, with 448 people aboard — rebel fighters and their family members.

There was no immediate comment from the Army of Islam. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the civil war through a network of activists on the ground, also reported the evacuation.

Rami Abdurrahman, the Observatory's director, said some factions within the Army of Islam oppose evacuating and surrendering Douma to the government of President Bashar Assad.

The deal over Douma would mark the end of a weeks-long push by Assad's forces to consolidate their control over eastern Ghouta, just outside the capital.

Douma was one of the earliest centers of the anti-government demonstrations that swept through the country in March 2011. Syrian government forces responded by putting the town and other suburbs around Damascus under siege, bombing hospitals and residential areas, and blocking the entry of food and medical relief.

Local activists have said that over 100,000 civilians are trapped inside Douma, which has suffered devastating damage.

The most recent Syrian air and ground offensive on eastern Ghouta, supported Russia's military, killed at least 1,600 people, according to the Observatory. More than 120,000 others fled their homes and sought safety with the government, according to Russia's military operation in Syria.

Russia is a key backer of Assad.

Over the past weeks, as Syrian forces reclaimed towns and villages in eastern Ghouta, they gave rebels and men of fighting age the choice of accepting amnesty and serving in the Syrian military conscription, or relocating to rebel-held areas in northern Syria. More than 40,000 rebels and their family members chose to relocate, according to the Russian military.

Turkey, with support from rebels, is running its own military operations against a U.S.-backed Kurdish militia in northern Syria, which controls territory along the frontier.

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On Sunday, the Syrian government-linked Central Military Media outlet said that once the evacuations were completed, a local council for Douma would be formed with the approval of the central government.

Syria's seven-year bloodletting has left around 450,000 killed. More than 11 million people — about half the country's prewar population — have been displaced from their homes, including over 5 million who are living as refugees outside Syria, according to the United Nations. The U.N. has estimated the material cost of the war damage at close to \$250 billion.

China space lab mostly burns up on re-entry in south Pacific

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's defunct Tiangong 1 space station mostly burned up on re-entry into the atmosphere over the central South Pacific on Monday, Chinese space authorities said.

The experimental space laboratory re-entered around 8:15 a.m. Beijing time, the China Manned Space Engineering Office said.

Scientists monitoring the craft's disintegrating orbit had forecast the craft would mostly burn up and would pose only the slightest of risks to people. Analysis from the Beijing Aerospace Control Center showed it had mostly burned up.

Brad Tucker, an astrophysicist at Australian National University, said that Tiangong 1's re-entry was "mostly successful" and that it would have been better if the space station had not been spinning toward Earth.

"It could have been better, obviously, if it wasn't tumbling, but it landed in the Southern Pacific Ocean, and that's kind of where you hope it would land," Tucker said.

"It's been tumbling and spinning for a while, which means that when it really starts to come down it's less predictable about what happens to it," Tucker said. He likened it to an airplane landing, saying it's more difficult to predict where a plane that is "shaking around and moving" will land than one that is smoothly descending.

Launched in 2011, Tiangong 1 was China's first space station, serving as an experimental platform for bigger projects, such as the Tiangong 2 launched in September 2016 and a future permanent Chinese space station.

Two crews of Chinese astronauts lived on the station while testing docking procedures and other operations. Its last crew departed in 2013 and contact with it was cut in 2016.

Since then, it has orbited gradually closer and closer to Earth on its own while being monitored.

Earlier forecasts had said that only about 10 percent of the bus-sized, 8.5-ton spacecraft would likely survive re-entry, mainly its heavier components such as its engines.

"The biggest takeaway from this is that as we put more things into space, all countries, we have to be aware that we do have to plan for these sorts of issues that are happening," Tucker said.

Roger Thompson, senior engineering specialist with the Aerospace Corporation in Virginia, said modeling of Tiangong 1's re-entry by monitors in the U.S. had been highly accurate, leaving him feeling "great" about their predictions.

"We believe it was an uncontrolled entry," Thompson said, adding that the corporation's own estimate had been just 15 minutes behind the time announced by China.

The lack of control was not unusual given that about 15 percent of satellites re-enter the atmosphere prior to the end of their useful lives, he said.

The corporation, which provides technical support for the space industry, had not been in touch with the Chinese side about the re-entry, Thompson said.

China's foreign and defense ministries said the country had relayed information about Tiangong 1's return to Earth to the United Nations' space agency and others.

Debris from satellites, space launches and the International Space Station enters the atmosphere every few months, but only one person is known to have been hit by any of it: American woman Lottie Williams, who was struck but not injured by a falling piece of a U.S. Delta II rocket while exercising in an Oklahoma park in 1997.

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Most famously, America's 77-ton Skylab crashed through the atmosphere in 1979, spreading pieces of wreckage near the southwest Australian city of Perth, which fined the U.S. \$400 for littering.

Tiangong 1, whose name translates as "Heavenly Palace," had two modules, one for its solar panels and engines, and one for a pair of astronauts to live in and conduct experiments. A third astronaut slept in the Shenzhou spaceships that docked with the station, which also contained facilities for personal hygiene and food preparation.

China's space program has made rapid progress since it launched its first crewed mission in 2003 — becoming only the third country after Russia and the U.S. to do so — including placing a rover on Mars and conducting a spacewalk.

A mission to land another rover on Mars and bring back samples is set to launch in 2020, while China also plans to become the first country to soft-land a probe on the far side of the moon.

The program's military background has at times been a barrier to greater cooperation with those run by other countries, and it was excluded from the 420-ton International Space Station that is now beginning to wind down.

Associated Press writer Gillian Wong contributed to this report.

Data from SUV shows deadly wreck may have been intentional

MENDOCINO, Calif. (AP) — An SUV carrying a large, free-spirited family from Washington state accelerated straight off a scenic California cliff and authorities said the deadly wreck may have been intentional.

Information pulled from the vehicle's software shows it was stopped at a flat, dirt pull-off area before it sped off the steep rocky face and plunged 100 feet, said Capt. Greg Baarts with the California Highway Patrol Northern Division. Speaking at an evening news conference Sunday night, Baarts said the electronic information combined with the lack of skid marks or signs the driver braked led authorities to believe the crash was purposeful.

Five members of the Hart family were found dead. The search continued for three more children believed to have been in the vehicle when it went over a coastal overlook and landed on rocks in the Pacific Ocean below. The missing children may have been washed out to sea, authorities say.

"This specific location is very difficult to search because the ocean currents and tides are strong, it's unpredictable, and the murkiness of the water makes it difficult to see," said Capt. Greg Van Patten, a spokesman for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Known as the Hart Tribe, the multiracial family of two married women — Sarah and Jennifer Hart — and six adopted children often took spontaneous road trips to camp and hike and traveled to festivals and other events, offering hugs and promoting unity.

Authorities don't know exactly when the wreck took place. A passing motorist discovered the vehicle on March 26, three days after social service authorities in Washington state opened an investigation apparently prompted by a neighbor's complaint that the children were being deprived of food. Authorities believe at least one felony was committed but Van Patten declined to specify.

Well before the wreck, Sarah Hart pleaded guilty in 2011 to a domestic assault charge in Douglas County, Minnesota, telling authorities "she let her anger get out of control" while spanking her 6-year-old adopted daughter, court records show.

The two women, both 38, were found dead inside the SUV, while three of their children — Markis Hart, 19, Jeremiah Hart, 14, and Abigail Hart, 14 — were discovered outside the vehicle. Searchers were looking for Hannah Hart, 16; Sierra Hart, 12; and Devonte Hart, 15.

Devonte drew national attention after the black youngster was photographed in tears, hugging a white police officer during a 2014 protest in Portland, Oregon, over the deadly police shooting of a black man in Ferguson, Missouri. Devonte was holding a "Free Hugs" sign.

Two weeks ago, Bruce and Dana DeKalb, next-door neighbors of the Harts in Woodland, Washington,

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called state Child Protective Services because Devonte had been coming over to their house almost every day for a week, asking for food.

Dana DeKalb said Devonte told her his parents were "punishing them by withholding food." The boy asked her to leave food in a box by the fence for him, she said.

Social service authorities opened an investigation, and a state caseworker went to the house on March 23 but didn't find anyone home. The agency had no prior history with the family, said Norah West, a spokeswoman with the Washington Department of Social and Health Services.

On Thursday, authorities in Washington state combed through the family's home for information. The Clark County Sheriff's Office said deputies were looking for bills, receipts or anything else to shed light on why the family left and other circumstances related to the trip, KGW-TV reported.

"To the best of my knowledge, there was not a suicide note found at the residence," said Baarts, who added that authorities have been interviewing friends and family members of the Harts.

"There have been red flags," he said, but did not elaborate.

Van Patten said he was not aware of any other evidence of abuse.

Family friend Max Ribner last week took issue with the notion it was something other than a tragic accident. The couple adopted the six children, many of whom came from "hard backgrounds," he said. "They transformed these kids' lives."

Associated Press writer Michelle A. Monroe contributed to this report.

Malala Yousafzai ends her 1st Pakistan visit since shooting

By MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai left Pakistan on Monday, ending a surprise visit to the country, her first since being shot in 2012 by Taliban militants who tried to kill her for promoting girls' education.

A smiling Yousafzai was seen with her parents at Benazir Bhutto International Airport before they boarded a plane to return to London after the four-day visit.

Amid tight security, Yousafzai earlier in the day left her hotel in Islamabad, where she had stayed for four days, and in a convoy of vehicles headed to the airport. Touching scenes were witnessed when the now-20-year-old university student left the hotel, thanking Pakistani officials for giving her an army helicopter over the weekend to fly to the Swat Valley, once virtually under the control of militants, and see her home in the northwest town of Mingora.

After visiting Mingora on Saturday, Yousafzai in a tweet said it was "the most beautiful place on earth" for her.

"So much joy seeing my family home, visiting friends and putting my feet on this soil again," said, as she posted a picture of her, showing her standing at her home's lawn with her father, mother and brothers.

Yousafzai also said in her hometown that she had waited for the moment for more than five years and said she often looked at Pakistan on the map, hoping to return.

She said she plans to permanently return to Pakistan after completing her studies in Britain.

On Monday, Yousafzai's uncle Mahmoodul Hassan told The Associated Press that "she is leaving Pakistan with good and memorable memories, but is going back to England because she wants to complete her education there."

During her visit, Yousafzai also met with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. She attended a reception at Abbasi's office and made an emotional speech in which she said it was one of the happiest days of her life to be back in her country.

Most Pakistanis warmly welcomed Yousafzai's visit but some launched a campaign on social media against her and she also faced tough questions from journalists, asking about the campaign. She said she failed to understand why she was being subjected to this kind of criticism by educated people.

"We want to work for the education of children and make it possible that every girl in Pakistan receives

a high-level education and she can fulfil her dreams and become a part of society," she told Pakistan's ARY news channel.

Her hometown of Mingora is not far away from the village of Mullah Fazlullah, the head of Pakistani Taliban who dispatched attackers in 2012 to kill Yousafzai, at the time already a known teen activist for girls' education, but she miraculously survived a bullet wound to the head. Fazlullah had taken over Swat in 2007, marking the height of the militant's strength there.

The Pakistani military later mostly evicted the militants from the valley and now Fazlullah is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan.

Since her attack and recovery, Yousafzai has led the Malala Fund, which helps students in Swat and elsewhere.

Associated Press Writer Sherin Zada contributed to this report from Mingora, Pakistan

In Missouri, GOP candidate for Senate walks Trump tightrope

By SUMMER BALLENTINE and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — He is one of the Republican Party's most-prized recruits, a young U.S. Senate candidate with an outsider resume and a populist message designed to appeal equally to farmers, suburban moms and the national GOP's moneyed elite.

But things get complicated when you ask Josh Hawley about President Donald Trump.

Hawley, who launched a Republican Senate bid in Missouri less than a year after being elected state attorney general, won't say whether he considers the Republican president a role model. In an interview with The Associated Press, the 38-year-old Yale Law School graduate also sidestepped questions about Trump's behavior toward women.

"No. 1, I am always my own man," Hawley said.

"I value my independence very highly," he added. "My loyalties as a U.S. senator would be first and foremost to the people of Missouri and their needs."

Hawley's cautious answers underscore a delicate political reality on the ground in Missouri, one that also is challenging other Republican candidates across the country ahead of the midterm elections. Seven months before Election Day, many are still struggling to craft a political playbook to win over Trump's most passionate supporters without repelling everyone else.

Hawley appears to be the GOP's best hope to defeat Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill in November. Yet even in Missouri, which Trump carried by 18 points less than two years ago, a GOP Senate candidate faces risks by fully embracing the president.

Trump remains popular among voters in Missouri's many small towns and rural communities. But in some of the state's suburbs, home to more college-educated voters and women, Trump's behavior and chaotic leadership style threaten to alienate supporters whom Hawley needs this fall. The stakes are high. The national GOP eyes Missouri as perhaps its best pickup opportunity in the nation.

Hawley was out of town on vacation when Trump railed against McCaskill during his first Missouri appearance last summer. At the time, Hawley's political mentor, former Sen. Jack Danforth, was calling on Republicans to disavow Trump. During a subsequent Trump visit in March, Hawley and Trump appeared together publicly only briefly on an airport tarmac outside Air Force One before attending a closed-door fundraising event.

And while Hawley tiptoed around questions about Trump's behavior, he told the AP that he was "delighted to have the president's support."

"The president endorsed me back in November," Hawley said. "He's been here obviously a couple of times now. We'll hope he'll come back."

Hawley's situation is made even more awkward by the fact that several of his senior political aides have worked for outspoken Trump Republican critics.

His campaign manager was a longtime communications chief for former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal,

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who attacked Trump as “a narcissist” and an “egomaniac” during the 2016 primary campaign. Another Hawley aide served as communications director for 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who previously called Trump “a phony” and “a fraud.”

A campaign spokesman noted that the staffers also worked on Hawley’s attorney general race in 2016.

The candidate’s allies recommend that he focus more on Trump’s policies — particularly on taxes, government regulation and his Supreme Court picks — than on his behavior. Trump has been accused of having multiple extramarital affairs. His erratic leadership style and undisciplined use of social media have also drawn criticism from within his own party.

“They don’t have to run on Trump himself. They have to run on the Trump issues because those are the issues that Americans and Missourians believe in,” said former Missouri GOP chairman Ed Martin, a major Trump supporter.

That’s easier said than done, according to GOP pollster Chris Wilson, who is working for Republican candidates in Missouri and across the country.

“Republicans have got to do a good job of explaining what it is they’ve accomplished,” Wilson said. “It’s not very often that elections are about issues, but this is a time when they have to be.”

Wilson said the distinction matters most in suburban Kansas City and St. Louis, particularly among women who might support Trump’s policies but are turned off by his use of Twitter, his unpredictable demeanor and “comments and actions that they see as beneath the president.”

Hawley’s cautious approach, however, has infuriated some local Trump supporters who view Hawley as an establishment candidate more likely to align with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell than with the president’s agenda.

Mark Anthony Jones, chairman of the Jackson County Republican Party in Kansas City and its suburbs, said that’s why he plans to vote for “anyone but Hawley” in the August primary.

“I don’t know that Josh Hawley supports any of Trump’s ‘America First’ strategy. He doesn’t say a word about that,” Jones said. “He only just scratches the surface in even mentioning Trump.”

Ironically, Trump presents challenges for his rival, too.

McCaskill will struggle to win if she can’t peel away some of Trump’s support. The two-term Democratic senator has spent much of the past year speaking directly to small-town voters in town hall meetings, where she tends to focus on areas of agreement with the president and is cautious in how she explains her votes against Trump’s tax bill and his Supreme Court pick.

“How does Claire navigate the fact that Missourians support the president?” Hawley strategist Brad Todd asked. “There are a lot more enthusiastic backers of the president in Missouri than virtually any other state.”

Peoples reported from New York.

China raises tariffs on US pork, fruit in trade dispute

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China raised import duties on a \$3 billion list of U.S. pork, apples and other products Monday in an escalating dispute with Washington over trade and industrial policy.

The government of President Xi Jinping said it was responding to a U.S. tariff hike on steel and aluminum. But that is just one facet of sprawling tensions with Washington, Europe and Japan over a state-led economic model they complain hampers market access, protects Chinese companies and subsidizes exports in violation of Beijing’s free-trade commitments.

Already, companies are looking ahead to a bigger fight over U.S. President Donald Trump’s approval of higher duties on up to \$50 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints that Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

Forecasters say the impact of Monday’s move should be limited, but investors worry the global recovery might be set back if other governments respond by raising import barriers.

On Monday, the main stock market indexes in Tokyo and Shanghai ended the day down.

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The tariffs "signal a most unwelcome development, which is that countries are becoming protectionist," said economist Taimur Baig of DBS Group. But in commercial terms, they are "not very substantial" compared with China's \$150 billion in annual imports of U.S. goods, he said.

Monday's tariff increase will hit American farm states, many of which voted for Trump in 2016.

Beijing is imposing a 25 percent tariff on U.S. pork and aluminum scrap and 15 percent on sparkling wine, steel pipe used by oil and gas companies, and an array of fruits and nuts including apples, walnuts and grapes.

American farm exports to China in 2017 totaled nearly \$20 billion, including \$1.1 billion of pork products.

There was no indication whether Beijing might exempt Chinese-owned American suppliers such as Smithfield Foods, the biggest U.S. pork producer, which is ramping up exports to China.

The U.S. tariff hike has "seriously damaged our interests," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. "Our country advocates and supports the multilateral trading system," it said. China's tariff increase "is a proper measure adopted by our country using World Trade Organization rules to protect our interests," the statement said.

The White House didn't respond to a message from The Associated Press on Sunday seeking comment.

The United States buys little Chinese steel and aluminum, but analysts said Beijing was certain to retaliate, partly to show its toughness ahead of possible bigger disputes.

Chinese officials have said Beijing is willing to negotiate, but in a confrontation will "fight to the end."

"China has already prepared for the worst," said Liu Yuanchun, executive dean of the National Academy of Development Strategy at Renmin University in Beijing. "The two sides, therefore, should sit down and negotiate."

The dispute reflects the clash between Trump's promise to narrow the U.S. trade surplus with China — a record \$375.2 billion last year — and Beijing's ambitious plans to develop Chinese industry and technology.

Last July, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin complained the Chinese government's dominant role in China's economy was to blame for its yawning trade surplus.

State-owned companies dominate Chinese industries including oil and gas, telecoms, banking, coal mining, utilities and airlines. They benefit from monopolies and low-cost access to energy, land and bank loans.

The ruling Communist Party promised in 2013 to give market forces the "decisive role" in allocating resources. But at the same time, Xi has affirmed plans to build up state industries the party says are the central pillar of the economy.

"The thing that is going to be more challenging for Beijing is if the U.S., European Union and Japan get together and start taking measures on state-owned enterprises," said Baig. "That for me would be an escalation, whereas product-by-product back and forth, amounting to a few billion dollars here or there, is not a major substantive concern."

Foreign governments also accuse Beijing of violating free trade by requiring automakers and other foreign companies to work through state-owned Chinese partners. That requires them to give technology to potential competitors.

Last month, a U.S. official cited as "hugely problematic" Beijing's sweeping plan to create Chinese competitors in electric cars, robots, advanced manufacturing and other fields over the next decade. Business groups complain that strategy, dubbed "Made in China 2025," will limit or outright block access to those industries.

The country's top economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, promised at a news conference on March 20 there will be "no mandatory requirement for technology transfers." However, Chinese officials already deny foreign companies are required to hand over technology, leaving it unclear how policy might change.

Trump ordered U.S. trade officials on March 22 to bring a WTO case challenging Chinese technology licensing. It proposed 25 percent tariffs on Chinese products including aerospace, communications technology and machinery and said Washington will step up restrictions on Chinese investment in key U.S. technology sectors.

Beijing has yet to say how it might respond.

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Trump administration officials have identified as potential targets 1,300 product lines worth about \$48 billion. That list will be open to a 30-day comment period for businesses.

The volleys of threats are "a process of game-playing to test each other's bottom lines," said Tu Xinquan, a trade expert at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

"We are curious about what the U.S. side really wants," said Tu, "and wonder whether the United States can tolerate the consequences."

AP researcher Yu Bing contributed to this report.

Chinese Ministry of Commerce announcement (in Chinese with link to list of affected products): http://gss.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201804/t20180401_2857769.html

What to watch between Michigan, Villanova in NCAA title game

By JOHN MARSHALL, AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A wild, entertaining season and one of the maddest Marches in college basketball history has reached its pinnacle.

Villanova and Michigan, prolific offense vs. stifling defense, a national title on the line, Monday night in San Antonio.

The Wildcats and their horde of long-range shooters are playing for their second title in three years, a chance to establish a mini dynasty. The Wolverines are after their first title since 1989, hoping to grasp the trophy that slipped through coach John Beilein's fingers in 2013.

Before you kick back in the barcalounger, check out these story lines to keep an eye on:

ALL THOSE 3s: Villanova has made a strong case as the greatest 3-point shooting team in college history. No hyperbole.

The Wildcats (35-4) already have the NCAA record for 3-pointers in a season with 454, the NCAA Tournament record with 66 and blew past the Final Four record with 18 against Kansas.

Villanova's motion offense and shoot-3s-at-every-position lineup has been a nightmare for teams in the NCAA Tournament; the Wildcats are fifth team to win its first five NCAA games by double digits. Three of those teams went on to win national titles: Michigan State (2000), Duke (2001) and North Carolina (2009).

Michigan must find a way to run the Wildcats off the 3-point line and get them to miss at least some of the 3s they do get to have a chance.

MICHIGAN'S D: If there is a team that can slow 'Nova's 3-roll, it could be the Wolverines.

Michigan (33-7) is the nation's No. 3 team in defensive efficiency and has held its five NCAA Tournament opponents to an average of 58.6 points per game.

The Wolverines shut down Loyola-Chicago's 3-point shooters in the national semifinals and have been adept at limiting opponents' 3-point attempts by switching and jamming shooters along the arc.

The concern even if they do limit Villanova's 3s: Back-door cuts.

The Ramblers had a hard time getting the ball to cutters against the bigger Wolverines, but the Wildcats are long and have strong finishers at nearly every position.

MO' MOE: Villanova's issue on defense will be finding a way to slow Michigan's Moe Wagner.

The German big man is a match-up nightmare with his agility, pinpoint passing and ability to knock down 3-pointers. Loyola certainly had no answer for him; Wagner had 24 points and 15 rebounds to join Hakeem Olajuwon and Larry Bird to go for 20 and 15 in a national semifinal.

Villanova big man Omari Spellman is athletic and mobile, but still may need help against Wagner, who is averaging 14.8 points and 7.4 rebounds in the NCAA Tournament.

PACING: Michigan likes to play methodically, ranking 324th of 351 Division I in Kenpom.com's adjusted tempo ratings. Villanova is not the fastest team, coming in at 160 in tempo, but it's still a huge difference.

The Wolverines will want this to be a grinding, low-scoring game and prevent Villanova from getting

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run-outs or 3-pointers in transition.

BIG-TIME BRUNSON: Villanova will have the best player on the floor Monday night in Jalen Brunson.

The junior guard has hauled in national player of the year awards this postseason and is a calming influence to the Wildcats.

Brunson is not flashy, he just gets it done. He's averaging 19.2 points, 4.6 assists, 3.1 rebounds and is shooting 41 percent from the 3-point arc. He's also the player anyone would want with the game on the line.

THE SIDEKICKS: Wagner and Brunson are the headliners for their teams, but both have excellent sidekicks.

Mikal Bridges is that player for Villanova. The athletic junior forward is the Wildcats' second-leading scorer at 17.6 points per game and has made 14 of his 29 attempts from the 3-point arc. He's also a superb defender who can guard multiple positions.

Charles Matthews was Michigan's second-leading scorer during the regular season, but has upped his game in the NCAA Tournament. The junior guard is averaging 16.6 points in the NCAA Tournament despite struggling on 3s — 4 for 17 — and is Michigan's second-leading rebounder at 6.8 per NCAA game.

More AP college basketball: <https://collegebasketball.ap.org> ; https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 and <https://www.podcastone.com/ap-sports-special-events>

Ogunbowale encore! Final Four hero lifts Notre Dame to title

By **DOUG FEINBERG, AP Basketball Writer**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Arike Ogunbowale hit the shot of her life — again.

Ogunbowale floated in a 3-pointer from the corner with 0.1 seconds left, lifting Notre Dame to its second women's basketball title with a thrilling 61-58 comeback victory over Mississippi State in the NCAA championship game on Sunday night.

It was the second straight game that the junior guard hit a shot in the final second to carry the Irish. Her jumper with one second remaining in overtime knocked off previously unbeaten UConn in the semifinals Friday.

With this game tied, Ogunbowale took the inbounds pass from Jackie Young, dribbled twice toward the corner and, closely guarded, lofted home an off-balance 3 from in front of the Notre Dame bench, nearly the same angle as her shot that beat the Huskies.

"It just felt right," said Ogunbowale, who scored 16 of her 18 points in the second half. "I practice late-game all the time. I just ran to Jackie and said, 'Throw it to me, throw it to me.'"

Ogunbowale earned most outstanding player honors for the tournament and also received a congratulatory tweet from Kobe Bryant, who took in the semifinal win over UConn.

All the Irish players could celebrate after pulling off the biggest comeback in title game history. They rallied from a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and were down five in the final 1:58. Marina Mabrey hit a 3-pointer from the wing and Young had a shot in the lane to tie it.

The title came 17 years to the day after Notre Dame (35-3) won its only other championship in 2001 on Easter.

"It's Easter Sunday, and all the Catholics were praying for us," said coach Muffet McGraw, who was wearing floral shoes in honor of the holiday.

When the final buzzer sounded, a wild celebration started with the Irish faithful who were part of the sellout crowd. McGraw's team had fallen short four times in seven years in the title game, losing in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015. Many of the Notre Dame alums who were on teams that had fallen just short of winning a title were there to enjoy it, including Natalie Achonwa, Natalie Novosel and Becca Bruszewski.

This version of McGraw's squad refused to lose, and the run was even more improbable because the Irish lost four players over the season to ACL injuries.

Tied as the clock ran down, Mississippi State star Teaira McCowan missed a layup with 27.8 seconds left, and both teams turned the ball over in a wild sequence. McCowan fouled out of the game stopping an Irish fast break after consecutive turnovers and that set up the final 3 seconds.

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After Ogunbowale's clutch shot, the officials huddled and put one-tenth of a second on the clock. A couple of Mississippi State players had already headed for the locker room, while Notre Dame players celebrated.

The court was cleared, and Mississippi State tossed a futile inbounds pass into the lane as the buzzer sounded.

"It hurts right now," Bulldogs coach Vic Schaefer said. "They played their hearts out."

It was the second year in a row that Mississippi State (37-2) fell short in the title game. It lost to South Carolina last year after ending UConn's record 111-game winning streak.

For the fourth straight NCAA game, the Irish found themselves trailing at the half. They were down 40-25 early in the third quarter before finally getting on track offensively. The Irish closed the period with a 16-1 run to tie the game at 41 heading to the final quarter.

The Irish were buoyed by severe foul trouble by Mississippi State that saw all five of its starters with three fouls in the third quarter.

It didn't look good for the Irish in the first half. After getting out to a 12-6 lead with 3:41 left in the opening quarter, Mississippi State outscored Notre Dame 24-5 the remainder of the half. The Irish went just over 8 minutes without a point, missing seven shots and committing five turnovers during the game-changing run.

At the same time, the 6-foot-7 McCowan and Victoria Vivians were powering the Bulldogs. McCowan got the burst going with five straight points and Vivians capped it with the final six points to give the Bulldogs a 30-17 lead at the half.

Vivians finished with 21 points and McCowan 18 to go along with 17 rebounds to lead the Bulldogs.

The Irish had just three points in the second quarter, setting an NCAA Tournament record for the fewest points in a period. That was five less than the previous mark for futility set by Syracuse in 2016 against UConn.

It didn't matter in the end as Notre Dame found a way to rally, just as they had done all season.

"This team is relentlessly driven," said Jessica Shepard, who scored 19 points to lead the Irish. "We've been down multiple times this year, but nobody stops us."

Follow Doug on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/dougfeinberg>

White House goes on attack over Shulkin's claim he was fired

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is hitting back at former Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin for claiming that he was fired from his job and that he was only informed about it shortly before President Donald Trump tweeted about his replacement.

The Trump administration says he left his job willingly amid a bruising ethics scandal and mounting rebellion within the agency. The semantics of whether Shulkin resigned or was fired could be relevant to Trump's ability to name an acting VA secretary to temporarily fill his place.

On Sunday, chagrined by Shulkin's public statements blaming his ouster on unfair "political forces" in the Trump administration, the White House circulated a "talking points" memo to some veterans groups in a bid to discredit him. The three-page memo, obtained by The Associated Press, points out seven "lies" that it said Shulkin had spread. They include statements in which he minimizes a VA watchdog report in February that concluded he violated ethics rules by accepting free Wimbledon tennis tickets. The VA inspector general has previously found Shulkin made misleading statements about the trip to investigators and the news media.

In television interviews earlier Sunday, Shulkin said he had not submitted a resignation letter, or planned to, and was only told of Trump's decision to replace him with White House doctor Ronny Jackson shortly before the Twitter announcement last Wednesday. He said he had spoken to Trump by phone earlier that day about VA improvements, with no mention of his job status, and was scheduled to meet with the president the next morning.

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"I came to run the Department of Veterans Affairs because I'm committed to veterans," Shulkin said. "And I would not resign because I'm committed to making sure this job was seen through to the very end."

Last week, Trump named Defense Department official Robert Wilkie to the acting position, bypassing Shulkin's deputy secretary, Tom Bowman. Bowman has come under criticism for being too moderate to push Trump's agenda.

Under federal law, a president has wide authority to temporarily fill a federal agency job if someone "dies, resigns, or is otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office." There is no mention of a president having that authority if the person is fired. Still, it's unclear if courts would seek to draw a legal distinction between a firing and a forced resignation, if that is indeed what happened to Shulkin.

The day after announcing he was replacing Shulkin, Trump told a rally in Richfield, Ohio, that he had been dissatisfied with efforts to improve the VA. Shulkin had enjoyed Trump's support for much of his first year in the administration, but that eroded in February after mounting ethics questions and political infighting at the VA.

Wilkie, now listed on the VA website as acting secretary, took over Shulkin's duties last week.

The back and forth over the circumstances behind Shulkin's departure — and what it could mean for Wilkie's status — comes as the nomination of Jackson is drawing concern among lawmakers and veterans groups. They worry the Navy rear admiral and lifelong physician lacks the experience to manage an enormous agency paralyzed over Trump's push to expand private care.

Trump's new Cabinet nominees also are beginning to pile up in the Senate, likely leading to weeks of confirmation battles and other delays in the run-up to congressional midterm elections in November. That could mean an extended reign for an acting VA secretary.

On Sunday, Shulkin, who had previously recommended Jackson to be VA undersecretary of health, repeatedly demurred when asked to fully endorse Jackson for the job of VA secretary. He noted the complexity of running the government's second-largest department.

"This is a very tough job," Shulkin said. "I'm not sure that anybody realizes how complex this is. ... I think he is going to need to have a good team around him, like everybody will, to be successful."

Shulkin's dismissal comes amid a broader shakeup of top Trump administration officials and accusations of excessive spending by Cabinet officials. Also currently under fire are Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson.

Shulkin had agreed to reimburse the government more than \$4,000 after the VA's internal watchdog concluded last month that he had improperly accepted Wimbledon tennis tickets and that his then-chief of staff had doctored emails to justify his wife traveling to Europe with him at taxpayer expense. Shulkin also blamed internal drama at the agency on a half-dozen or so rebellious political appointees, insisting he had White House backing to fire them.

But the continuing VA infighting and a fresh raft of watchdog reports documenting leadership failures and spending waste — as well as fresh allegations that Shulkin had used a member of his security detail to run personal errands — proved too much of a distraction.

Shulkin spoke on CNN's "State of the Union" and NBC's "Meet the Press."

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed from Palm Beach, Florida.

NKorean leader Kim watches performance by SKorean pop stars

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un clapped his hands and said he was "deeply moved" as he, along with his wife and hundreds of other citizens, watched a rare performance by South Korean pop stars visiting Pyongyang. The concert highlights the thawing ties between the rivals after years of friction over the North's nuclear program.

During Sunday's performance at the packed 1,500-seat East Pyongyang Grand Theater, North Korean

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concertgoers — most of the men in dark suits but some women in colorful traditional “hanbok” dresses — waved their hands from their seats when the South Korean stars joined together to sing a popular Korean song, “Our wish is unification.” After the two-hour performance ended, the North Koreans gave a thundering standing ovation.

A South Korean artistic group, including some pop legends and the popular girl band Red Velvet, flew to Pyongyang over the weekend for two performances in the North Korean capital, one on Sunday and the other on Tuesday. How North Koreans would react to Red Velvet was a focus of keen media attention in South Korea.

Kim, wearing a dark Mao-style suit, made a surprise visit to the performance with his wife Ri Sol Ju, sister Kim Yo Jong and other senior North Korean officials, including nominal head of state Kim Yong Nam. Kim Jong Un applauded during the event and shook hands with the South Korean performers. He also took a group photo with them after their performance, according to North Korea’s state news agency and South Korean media pool reports from Pyongyang.

Kim “said that he was deeply moved to see our people sincerely acclaiming the performance, deepening the understanding of the popular art of the South side,” the North’s Korean Central News Agency said.

Short South Korean media pool footage showed Kim clapping from the second-floor VIP stand as South Korean Culture Minister Do Jong-hwan bowed and greeted North Korean spectators looking on from the first floor.

“We should hold culture and art performances frequently,” Kim told South Korean performers. Mentioning the performance’s title, “Spring comes,” Kim also asked the performers to tell South Korean President Moon Jae-in that the two Koreas should hold a similar event in Seoul in the autumn, according to South Korean media pool reports.

Kim also talked about Red Velvet.

“There had been interest in whether I would come and see Red Velvet. I had initially planned to attend a performance the day after tomorrow but I came here today after adjusting my schedule,” Kim was quoted as saying. “I thank you for this kind of gift to Pyongyang’s citizens.”

It was the first time for a North Korean leader to attend such a South Korean performance in the North. During a past period of detente, South Korea occasionally sent pop singers to North Korea, but that stopped in 2005.

The 26-second South Korean video clip showed a quiet audience when members of Red Velvet, wearing clothes less revealing than their normal stage costumes, danced and sang their popular hit song “Red Flavor.”

Full video of their and other South Korean singers’ performances wasn’t immediately available. But Red Velvet said in a post-concert interview that the North Koreans gave them a big hand.

Band member Seulgi said she cried when North and South Koreans sang together the song, “Our Wish is Unification.” Another member Yeri said she was “very” nervous when she exchanged handshakes with Kim Jong Un, but she said it was still “really, really an honor” to do so. The South Korean group includes prominent singers such as Cho Yong-pil, Lee Sunhee and Cho Jin Hee, who all previously performed in Pyongyang.

The ongoing cooperation steps between the rivals began after North Korea took part in February’s Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. During the games, a North Korean art troupe performed in South Korea, and Moon and his wife watched it with visiting senior North Korean officials including Kim Yo Jong, who became the first member of the North’s ruling Kim family to visit the South since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Some experts suspect Kim Jong Un may be attempting to use his outreach to Seoul and Washington as a way to weaken international sanctions and buy time to further advance his nuclear bomb program.

Kim is to meet Moon at a border village on April 27 and President Donald Trump in May in separate summit talks.

On Tuesday, the South Korean K-pop stars plan to hold a joint performance with North Koreans. Meanwhile, a South Korean taekwondo demonstration team also held a performance in Pyongyang on Sunday.

Ruling party candidate easily wins Costa Rica presidency

By JAVIER CORDOBA, Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Costa Rica's governing party won a big presidential election victory Sunday as many voters rejected an evangelical pastor who had jumped into political prominence by campaigning against same-sex marriage.

The head of the Supreme Electoral Council, Luis Antonio Sobrado, said that with 95 percent of ballots counted Sunday night, Carlos Alvarado of the ruling Citizen Action Party had 60.8 percent of the votes in the runoff election. His opponent, Fabricio Alvarado of the National Restoration party, had 39.2 percent. The two men are not related.

Fabricio Alvarado rose from being a political unknown to the leading candidate in the election's first round in February after he came out strongly against a call by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for Costa Rica to allow same-sex marriage.

Carlos Alvarado, a novelist and former labor minister who finished second in February to get the final spot in the runoff, spoke in favor of letting gays wed.

The victor wrote in his Twitter account, "Let's celebrate our 200 years of Independence with a government worthy and up to date with the times."

"Today, the world is watching us and we sent a beautiful democratic message."

Recent opinion polls had said the candidates were running head-to-head going into the runoff, but in the end Carlos Alvarado had an easy win.

In a speech to supporters, Fabricio Alvarado conceded defeat but said he had managed to raise the banner of "principles and values."

"We are not sad, because we made history, because our message touched the country's deepest nerves," he said.

The two share similarities beyond their family name. Both have backgrounds in journalism and both have recorded music - Fabricio Alvarado as a gospel singer and Carlos Alvarado as a college-age rock 'n' roller.

Both candidates also had economic advisers who take a conservative approach to economics, favoring the free market and calling for a reduction in the size of government.

Voter Maria Rodriguez said she supported Carlos Alvarado because she rejected his rival's homophobic discourse and does not believe the evangelical candidate was qualified to be president.

Rodrigo Lopez said Fabricio Alvarado was his choice because Costa Rica should maintain its traditional values and he is tired of the ruling party's corruption.

Steven Bochco, creator of 'Hill Street Blues,' dies at 74

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steven Bochco, a writer and producer known for creating the groundbreaking police drama "Hill Street Blues," died Sunday. He was 74. A family spokesman says Bochco died in his sleep after a battle with cancer.

Bochco, who won 10 primetime Emmys, created several hit television shows including "L.A. Law," "NYPD Blue," and "Doogie Howser, M.D."

Premiering in January 1981, "Hill Street Blues" challenged, even confounded the meager audience that sampled it. Then, on a wave of critical acclaim, the series began to click with viewers, while scoring a history-making 27 Emmy nominations its first year.

During its seven-season run, it won 26 Emmys and launched Bochco on a course that led to dozens of series and earned him four Peabody awards, in addition to the 10 Emmys.

"Hill Street Blues" had a sprawling universe of engaging yet flawed characters, a zippy pace and layers of overlapping, scripted dialogue, shot in a documentary style.

But what really set the show apart were the multiple narratives that interlaced each episode with those that came before and after. With the rare exception of the few prime-time soaps, almost every series up to that time — whether comedy or drama — made each episode freestanding, with a reset button for the one that came next.

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Bochco once recalled a fan telling him that "Hill Street Blues" was the first TV series with a memory. "That's what I always thought of myself doing in the context of TV: craft a show that over time would have a memory," he told The Associated Press in an interview two years ago. "I sensed that very early in my career. It just took me another 10 or 12 years to get to the point where I earned the right to take a shot at it."

Bochco grew up in Manhattan, the son of a painter and a concert violinist. On arriving in Los Angeles after college, he wrote for several series at Universal Studios. Then he got a big break: writing the screenplay for the 1972 sci-fi film "Silent Running." But Bochco said the disrespect he confronted as the writer soured him on writing for the big screen.

"Once you've delivered the screenplay they don't want you around, because you're gonna get in the way of someone else's vision," Bochco said.

In his self-published memoir "Truth Is a Total Defense: My Fifty Years in Television," Bochco tells the story of his prolific career, which he began at 22 as a story editor on a popular NBC drama, "The Name of the Game," all the way to "Murder in the First," which ran on TNT from 2014 to 2016.

In his book, Bochco recalls his great collaborations and his battles with actors, studio heads and network execs, along with the flops ("Bay City Blues"! "Cop Rock"!) that made the triumphs even sweeter.

Details of a memorial service were not immediately released.

Former Associated Press writer Frazier Moore contributed to this story.

Cosby jury being picked amid anti-sexual misconduct movement

By KRISTEN DE GROOT, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jury selection is set to get underway in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial in a cultural landscape changed by the #MeToo movement, posing new challenges for both the defense and the prosecution.

Experts say the movement could cut both ways for the comedian, making some potential jurors more hostile toward him and others more likely to think men are being unfairly accused.

"We really have had this explosion of awareness since that last trial and it has changed the entire environment," said Richard Gabriel, a jury consultant who has worked on over 1,000 trials. "It is a huge challenge for the defense, but it could also provide an avenue and open up the topic."

The process of picking 12 jurors was to begin on Monday in suburban Philadelphia.

A jury deadlocked last June at the former TV star's first trial after Cosby's lawyers managed to sow enough doubt in the minds of a few jurors. That was before the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct started toppling famous men in rapid succession, among them Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, Kevin Spacey and Democratic U.S. Sen. Al Franken.

Veteran lawyers and jury consultants say #MeToo will make jury selection more complex and raise the stakes even higher.

The defense is likely to use attitudes toward the movement to weed out jurors.

"There may be a juror who says, 'I don't have an opinion about Cosby, but the #MeToo is very important to me,'" said Melissa M. Gomez, a jury expert and author of the book "Jury Trials Outside In." "That person is still very dangerous to the defense."

Cosby, 80, is charged with drugging and molesting Andrea Constand, a former Temple University athletics administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Last year, after more than 52 hours of jury deliberations over six days, the judge declared a mistrial. One juror said the panel was split 10-2 in favor of conviction, while another said the group of seven men and five women was more evenly divided.

A juror who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said he was suspicious of Constand's story, questioning why she waited to tell authorities about the alleged assault and suggesting the

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clothing she wore to Cosby's house had influenced his view of their encounter.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

In the first trial, jury selection was moved to Pittsburgh over defense fears that widespread publicity could make it difficult to find unbiased jurors in the Philadelphia area. Cosby has a retooled legal team, led by former Michael Jackson lawyer Tom Mesereau, which didn't seek such measures this time.

Last year's case was mostly he-said-she-said, but the judge agreed last month to let the jury at the retrial hear from an additional five women who have accused Cosby, giving prosecutors a chance to portray the man once known as "America's Dad" as a serial predator.

"It's going to be much more difficult for the defense to chip away at all six, especially if there is a common thread and story," Gomez said. "That shows a pattern of behavior."

Typically prosecutors and defense attorneys can take what happened at the first trial, learn from it and improve on it in the retrial, but some experts say the climate surrounding sexual assault has changed so thoroughly that both sides should go back to the drawing board.

"There is no question that this is a very difficult time to try someone who has been accused of sexual assault," said defense attorney and Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz. "For some jurors the whole movement will be on trial, because Cosby has been the poster person for this kind of accusation."

At a hearing last month, Cosby lawyer Becky James argued it would be difficult to find an impartial jury in this climate: "There's no way we will get a jury that hasn't heard these allegations against not just Mr. Cosby but many other celebrities." But Judge Steven O'Neill scoffed at the notion Cosby cannot get a fair trial.

Jury experts said the key is getting potential jurors to open up about their personal experiences surrounding sexual assault and misconduct, something that might be better done behind closed doors, in the judge's chambers, where people might be more likely to speak candidly.

"Without getting it out in the open, it can be underneath the surface," Gabriel said. "The hidden bias is always the most dangerous bias."

Philip K. Anthony, CEO of trial consultant firm DecisionQuest, said he has found jurors often don't know as much about newsy topics like the #MeToo movement as lawyers might anticipate. He also said he has found jurors want to do the right thing.

"In a case with a lot of notoriety, jurors work even harder to reach a fair and impartial decision," he said.

Trump on deal to protect 'Dreamer' immigrants: 'NO MORE'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday declared "NO MORE" to a deal to help "Dreamer" immigrants and threatened to pull out of a free trade agreement with Mexico unless it does more to stop people from crossing into the U.S. He claimed they're coming to take advantage of protections granted certain immigrants.

"NO MORE DACA DEAL!" Trump tweeted one hour after he began the day by wishing his followers a "HAPPY EASTER!"

He said Mexico must "stop the big drug and people flows, or I will stop their cash cow, NAFTA. NEED WALL!" The U.S., Canada and Mexico are participating in tense negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement at Trump's insistence. Trump says NAFTA is bad for the U.S.

"Mexico has got to help us at the border," Trump, holding his wife's hand, told reporters before the couple attended Easter services at an Episcopal church near his Palm Beach home. "If they're not going to help us at the border, it's a very sad thing between our two countries."

"A lot of people are coming in because they want to take advantage of DACA," he added.

Former President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to provide temporary protection and work permits to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally after being brought here as children. Trump ended the program last year, but gave Congress six

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months to pass legislation enshrining it. A deal has so far proved elusive and Trump has blamed Democrats. It was not immediately clear what Trump was referring to when he said people are coming to take advantage of the program.

The Department of Homeland Security is not issuing new permits, though existing ones can be renewed. The Obama administration allowed signups during a set period of time, and the program is closed to new entrants.

Proposed DACA deals crafted by lawmakers and rejected by Trump also were not open to new participants.

Trump did not explain what he meant when questioned by reporters as he entered the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea with the first lady and his daughter Tiffany. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for clarification.

Trump, when addressing reporters briefly before entering the church, again blamed Democrats for failing to protect the "Dreamers."

"They had a great chance. The Democrats blew it. They had a great, great chance, but we'll have to take a look because Mexico has got to help us at the border. They flow right through Mexico. They send them into the United States. It can't happen that way anymore."

Trump promised during the 2016 presidential campaign to build a Southern border wall to stop illegal immigration and drugs from Mexico, but Congress has frustrated him by not moving as quickly as he wants to provide money for construction.

The president also complained on Twitter that border patrol agents can't do their jobs properly because of "ridiculous liberal (Democrat) laws" that allow people caught for being in the country illegally to be released while they await a hearing before a federal immigration judge.

Trump tweeted that the situation is "Getting more dangerous" and "Caravans" are coming. He did not offer details to back his comment.

The president's tweets came after Fox News' "Fox & Friends" reported early Sunday on what it said is a group of 1,200 immigrants, mostly from Honduras, headed to the U.S. The segment was a follow-up to a report by BuzzFeed News on hundreds of Central Americans making their way through Mexico in hopes that American authorities will grant them asylum or be absent when they attempt to cross the border.

The Fox headline was "Caravan of illegal immigrants headed to U.S." The president is known to watch the cable TV program in the morning.

Brandon Judd, leader of the union representing border patrol agents, predicted on "Fox & Friends" that those in the caravan would create havoc and chaos in the U.S. as they wait for what he described as immigration reform. Judd also said Congress needs to pass tougher laws, an idea Trump appeared to echo, and create more bed space for immigration authorities to house people.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, chided Trump over the tone of the tweets.

"A true leader preserves & offers hope, doesn't take hope from innocent children who call America home. Remember, today is Easter Sunday," tweeted Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Trump critic who challenged him for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination.

Arizona Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, another Trump foe, urged Congress to take up the fight for Dreamers.

"There are plenty of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who stand ready to work with the administration on legislation to protect DACA kids who call America home," he tweeted. "Let's do it."

Sunday's church visit was Trump's first public appearance with his wife since CBS' "60 Minutes" aired an interview the previous Sunday with Stormy Daniels, the adult-film star who says she had sex with Trump in 2006, early in his marriage and a few months after Mrs. Trump gave birth to their son. The White House says Trump denies the affair. Mrs. Trump spent most of the past week in Palm Beach with her son.

The Trumps returned to Washington later Sunday.

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Data breach hits Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor stores

By **MATT O'BRIEN, AP Technology Writer**

A data breach at department store chains Saks Fifth Avenue, Saks Off Fifth and Lord & Taylor has compromised the personal information of customers who shopped at the stores.

The chains' parent company, Canada-based Hudson's Bay Co., announced the breach of its store payment systems on Sunday. The company said it was investigating and taking steps to contain the attack.

The disclosure came after New York-based security firm Gemini Advisory LLC revealed on Sunday that a hacking group known as JokerStash or Fin7 began boasting on dark websites last week that it was putting up for sale up to 5 million stolen credit and debit cards. The hackers named their stash BIGBADABOOM-2. While the extent of its holdings remains unclear, about 125,000 records were immediately released for sale.

The security firm confirmed with several banks that many of the compromised records came from Saks and Lord & Taylor customers.

Hudson's Bay said in a statement that it "deeply regrets any inconvenience or concern this may cause," but it hasn't said how many Saks or Lord & Taylor stores or customers were affected. The company said there's no indication that the breach affected its online shopping websites or other brands, including the Home Outfitters chain or Hudson's Bay stores in Canada.

The company said customers won't be liable for fraudulent charges. It plans to offer free credit monitoring and other identity protection services.

There is evidence that the breach began about a year ago, said Dmitry Chorine, Gemini Advisory's co-founder and chief technology officer. He said the prolific hacking group has previously targeted major hotel and restaurant chains.

The breach follows last year's high-profile hack of credit bureau Equifax that exposed the personal data of millions of Americans. This newest breach, however, more closely resembles past retail breaches that have targeted the point-of-sale systems used by companies from Home Depot to Target and Neiman Marcus.

Chorine said the hackers' typical method is to send cleverly crafted phishing emails to company employees, especially managers, supervisors and other key decision-makers. Once an employee clicks on an attachment, which is often made to look like an invoice, the system gets infected.

"For an entire year, criminals were able to sit on the network of Lord & Taylor and Saks and steal data," he said.

Chorine said most of the stolen credit cards appear to have been obtained from stores in the New York City metropolitan area and other Northeast U.S. states. It's possible, he said, that those stores hadn't yet adopted the more secure credit card payment systems that have been rolled out elsewhere.

Hudson's Bay is advising customers who want more information about the breach to visit security-response websites it's created for Saks Fifth Avenue , Saks Off Fifth , and Lord & Taylor .

Spielberg's 'Ready Player One' tops holiday box office

By **LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steven Spielberg has found his way back to the top of the box office with the action-adventure "Ready Player One," while Tyler Perry has scored again with "Acrimony."

Studio estimates on Sunday say Spielberg's virtual reality-focused film earned a solid \$53.2 million in its first four days in theaters from 4,234 locations since opening Wednesday night, with \$41.2 million of that coming from the three-day weekend.

Not adjusted for inflation, it's Spielberg's best opening in a decade following "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which launched with \$100.1 million in 2008. Aside from "The BFG," Spielberg has lately favored smaller historical dramas instead of the big-scale blockbusters of his heyday.

Based on Ernest Cline's popular novel and chock-full of references to 1980s pop culture, including some nods to Spielberg's own films, "Ready Player One" is a return to the popcorn filmmaking that he became known for. With that includes a reportedly hefty \$175 million price tag, which does not account for marketing costs.

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Audiences gave the film an A- CinemaScore, and reviews have been warm, too (it's sitting at a 76 percent on Rotten Tomatoes). Those who turned out this weekend were mostly male (59 percent) and over the age of 25 (56 percent).

"It's great to be in the Steven Spielberg business," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution. "We always believed that this movie itself would carry the day and that's really what happened. We've seen all around the globe that the word of mouth is really propelling it."

Goldstein said while advance ticket sales were solid, the walk-up business was particularly robust on Friday and Saturday.

Internationally, the film exceeded the studio's expectations with \$128 million from 62 territories, including \$61.7 million from China (the biggest-ever opening in the country for Warner Bros.). Globally it grossed \$181.3 million.

ComScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian said the performance of "Ready Player One" should be judged in the context of the marketplace, which is down significantly (24.1 percent) from last March and has seen nearly every film since "Black Panther" open in the "middling to good range."

"None of them have set the world on fire," Dergarabedian said. "We're living in a world where a \$52.3 million gross for the first four days is a really good number."

"Tyler Perry's Acrimony" took second place. Driven by an overwhelmingly female audience, the film starring Taraji P. Henson grossed \$17.1 million over the 3-day weekend, followed by "Black Panther" in third place with \$11.3 million.

With \$650.7 million in domestic grosses, "Black Panther" is poised to pass "Jurassic World's" \$652 million to become the fourth highest grossing domestic release of all time.

A batch of faith-based films also competed for attention leading up to the Easter holiday, including "I Can Only Imagine," which scored again with \$10.8 million to take fourth place. It outshined "Paul, Apostle of Christ," which earned \$3.5 million in weekend two and the new opener, "God's Not Dead: A Light in Darkness," which stumbled with \$2.6 million. Even Wes Anderson's "Isle of Dogs," playing in only 165 locations, beat "God's Not Dead 3" with \$2.8 million.

"Pacific Rim Uprising" rounded out the top five with \$9.2 million, down 67 percent from last weekend's No. 1 opening.

The year is still down nearly 4 percent, too, but there are some superheroes on the horizon.

"The cavalry is on the way in 'Avengers: Infinity War,'" Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Ready Player One," \$41.2 million (\$128 million international).
2. "Tyler Perry's Acrimony," \$17.1 million.
3. "Black Panther," \$11.3 million (\$7.7 million international).
4. "I Can Only Imagine," \$10.8 million (\$200,000 international).
5. "Pacific Rim Uprising," \$9.2 million (\$31.4 million international).
6. "Sherlock Gnomes," \$7 million (\$2.5 million international).
7. "Love, Simon," \$4.8 million (\$1.6 million international).
8. "Tomb Raider," \$4.7 million (\$12 million international).
9. "A Wrinkle in Time," \$4.7 million (\$4.8 million international).
10. "Paul, Apostle of Christ," \$3.5 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Ready Player One," \$128 million.
2. "Peter Rabbit," \$32.1 million.
3. "Pacific Rim Uprising," \$31.4 million.
4. "Baaghi 2," \$15.2 million.

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5. "Tomb Raider," \$12 million.
6. "Gonjiam: Haunted Asylum," \$8.5 million.
7. "Black Panther," \$7.7 million.
8. "Nothing to Lose (Part 1)," \$7.1 million.
9. "Red Sparrow," and "Blockers," \$5 million.
10. "A Wrinkle in Time," \$4.8 million.

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Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lbahr>

Syria: Fighters begin leaving Ghouta's last rebel-held town

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A rebel faction trapped by government forces outside the Syrian capital agreed to evacuate to northern Syria on Sunday as reports swirled of a larger agreement that would have the government retake full control of the eastern Ghouta region after seven years of revolt.

Fighters from the Faylaq al-Rahman group left Douma on buses sent by the Syrian government to the rebel-held province of Idlib, SANA state news agency reported. Some 1,300 fighters, activists, and civilians signed up to leave the town, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group.

It was the first organized evacuation of fighters from Douma, one of the earliest centers of the anti-government demonstrations that swept through the country in 2011. Security forces responded by putting the town and other suburbs around Damascus under siege, bombing hospitals and residential areas, and blocking the entry of food and medical relief.

Douma is a stronghold of the powerful Army of Islam rebel group. The town is one of the last around the capital to hold out against the government.

Later Sunday, a media outlet linked to the Syrian military reported that the Army of Islam also agreed to leave to north Syria, effectively transferring control of Douma to Damascus.

The deal would mark the end of a weeks-long push by the government to consolidate its control of the eastern Ghouta region just outside the capital.

Fighters from the Army of Islam would evacuate to Jarablus, a town in the northern Aleppo province that is shared between rebel and Turkish control. Turkey, with support from rebels, is running its own military operations against a U.S.-backed Kurdish party that controls territory along the frontier.

A local council for Douma would be formed with the approval of the central government, said the government-linked Central Military Media outlet.

Russia's military also said Sunday that a preliminary agreement has been reached on the evacuation of Army of Islam fighters. Maj.-Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko, chief of the Russian center for reconciliation of the Syrian warring parties, said the fighters are to hand over maps of mined areas and underground tunnels while leaving Douma, as well as clear major transport routes of barricades.

Opposition officials, however, denied the reports. There was no comment from the Army of Islam.

The Army of Islam did not agree to leave the town, said Iyad Abdelaziz, a member of Douma's current local council. He said "humanitarian cases" would be allowed to evacuate on Monday.

Dozens if not hundreds of residents are believed to require care for war wounds and medical conditions

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exacerbated by the siege of the town. The government routinely blocks aid groups from evacuating patients from besieged areas for medical care.

Local activists say over 100,000 civilians are trapped inside Douma, which suffered devastating damage during the latest government assault.

Ahmad Ramadan, a prominent opposition figure in exile, told the Saudi TV channel al-Arabiya that the Army of Islam was still engaged in talks with Russia over the future of the town. He said Turkey was also participating in the talks.

Faylaq al-Rahman did not have a significant presence in the Douma. They were instead pushed into the town by a recent government offensive that broke rebel lines and cleaved eastern Ghouta into three parts, said local media activist Ahmad Khansour.

The fighters in Douma were following their Faylaq al-Rahman comrades trapped in the other two Ghouta pockets that relocated to northern Syria last week. Government forces extended their control over those areas over the course of a five-week offensive that killed at least 1,600 civilians and displaced tens of thousands more, according to the Observatory, an opposition-linked group that monitors both sides of the conflict.

Associated Press writer Albert Aji Damascus, Syria, contributed to this report.

Israel rejects calls for inquiry into Gaza violence

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's defense minister on Sunday rejected international calls for an investigation into deadly violence along Gaza's border with Israel, saying troops acted appropriately and fired only at Palestinian protesters who posed a threat.

Fifteen Palestinians were killed and over 700 wounded in Friday's violence near the Israeli border, according to Palestinian health officials. It was the area's deadliest violence since a war four years ago.

Human rights groups have accused the army of using excessive force, and both the U.N. secretary-general and the European Union's foreign policy chief have urged an investigation.

In an interview, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Israel would not cooperate with a U.N. inquiry if there were one.

"From the standpoint of the Israeli soldiers, they did what had to be done," Lieberman told Israeli Army Radio. "I think that all of our troops deserve a commendation, and there won't be any inquiry."

Friday's mass marches were largely led by Gaza's ruling Hamas group and touted as the launch of a six-week-long protest campaign against a stifling decade-old blockade of the territory. Israel and Egypt have maintained the blockade since Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, seized control of Gaza in 2007.

In Friday's confrontations, large crowds gathered near the fence, with smaller groups of protesters rushing forward, throwing stones and burning tires.

Israeli troops responded with live fire and rubber-coated steel pellets, while drones dropped tear gas from above. Soldiers with rifles were perched on high earthen embankments overlooking the scene.

Protests have continued since Friday but at a far smaller scale. On Sunday, one person was seriously wounded by gunfire, Palestinian medical officials said.

The military has said it responded only to violent attacks aimed at troops and the border fence.

But video from the scene showed at least a handful of incidents in which people appear to have been shot either far from the border or while they were not actively rioting.

In one video that spread on social media, a young man was fatally shot from behind while running away from the border area carrying a tire.

The Israeli military accused Hamas of releasing videos that were either incomplete, edited or "completely fabricated." It said troops had followed strict rules of engagement, and that protesters were putting themselves in "harm's way" by operating in a dangerous area.

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In the case of the man with the tire, the army said the video told only part of the story, and said he was a Hamas militant who had been involved in violence just moments before he was shot. It gave no additional evidence to support the claims.

In the interview, Lieberman said those who protested peacefully were not harmed, saying claims that peaceful protesters were harmed were "lies and inventions."

"Whoever didn't get close to the fence was not shot," he said.

The Israeli military has said those killed by troops were men who were involved in violence and who belonged to Hamas and other militant factions. The army later released the names and ages of 10 of the dead, including what it said were eight members of Hamas and two from other militant groups. It also accuses Gaza health officials of exaggerating the number of wounded.

Four of the 15 dead were members of the Hamas military wing, Hamas said Saturday. The group said a fifth member who was not on the Health Ministry list was killed near the border, and that Israel has the body. It said another man is also missing in the border area.

The protests are to culminate in a large border march on May 15, the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding. The date is mourned by Palestinians as their "nakba," or catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands were uprooted in the 1948 Mideast war over Israel's creation. Most of Gaza's 2 million people are descendants of Palestinian refugees.

Gaza's continued border closure has made it increasingly difficult for Hamas to govern. Life in the coastal strip has deteriorated further in recent months, with rising unemployment, grinding poverty and daily blackouts that last for hours.

Hamas has been further weakened by international isolation and financial pressure by the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, along with three wars against Israel. It appears to be taking a gamble by using the protests to draw attention to Gaza without sparking another painful war.

Israel has warned that it will not allow the border to be breached. It also accuses Hamas of trying to use protests as a cover for planting explosives and staging attacks. On Saturday, Israel's military said it will target militant groups inside Gaza if the border violence drags on.

It appears unlikely that large-scale protests will continue daily, with larger turnouts only expected after Friday noon prayers, the highlight of the Muslim religious week.

Inside Israel, most of the country has lined up solidly behind the army. Still, on Sunday, dozens of Israelis demonstrated in Tel Aviv against the violence, criticizing Israel for its response.

Family of man killed by police joins rally for reform

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The family of Stephon Clark joined hundreds of people at a rally urging California's capital city not to let his memory or calls for police reform fade nearly two weeks after the 22-year-old unarmed black man was killed by Sacramento officers.

Clark's fiancée, Salena Manni, stood on stage with his two young sons, grandmother and uncle for the gathering Saturday organized by Sacramento native and former NBA player Matt Barnes, who pledged to create a scholarship fund for the children of black men killed by police.

"All he wanted to do was go see his sons again, and unfortunately he can't," Curtis Gordon, Clark's uncle, said as he recalled seeing his nephew hours before the shooting. "So remember that — while we mourn, while we shout, while we cry — because it ain't just our pain, it's their pain."

Barnes amplified calls for charges against the two officers who are on administrative leave.

"It's more than color — it comes down to right and wrong," he said. "You're trying to tell me I can kill someone and get a paid vacation?"

The peaceful demonstration that drew between 200 and 300 people to a downtown park came a day after a private autopsy released by the family showed Clark was shot from behind.

Clark was killed March 18 by two police officers responding to a call of someone breaking into car windows. They yelled that he had a gun before shooting, but it was only a cellphone. The police department

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says it has not received an official autopsy report from the county coroner's office.

A female demonstrator was hit by a Sacramento County Sheriff's Department vehicle as a crowd began marching in the streets after another vigil Saturday night. In a statement early Sunday, the department said "the collision occurred while the patrol vehicle was traveling at slow speeds," adding that the woman suffered minor injuries.

The statement also said the sheriff's vehicle, which was surrounded by protesters yelling and pounding on the car, "sustained scratches, dents, and a shattered rear window."

Activists and faith leaders called for justice not just for Clark, but for all black men killed by police. Family members of Joseph Mann, who was killed by Sacramento police in 2016, also spoke. The chairman of a police oversight commission urged attendees to continue their activism by showing up to meetings and pushing for systemic change.

Community leaders urged the city to set a national example.

"This little small town can show this nation our great big heart," the Rev. Kevin Ross said.

About 150 people attended another vigil and protest Saturday night outside a sheriff's department office. It was the latest disruptive but mostly peaceful demonstration since Clark was killed.

Protesters have twice blocked fans from entering games involving the NBA's Sacramento Kings at a downtown arena, but there were no signs of trouble amid a big police presence at a game Saturday night against the Golden State Warriors.

The Friday release of the private autopsy commissioned by Clark's family has prompted fresh outrage. Pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu, known for his study of a degenerative brain condition in football players, announced that Clark was hit by eight bullets — six in the back, one in the neck and one in the thigh — and took three to 10 minutes to die. Police waited about five minutes before rendering medical aid.

Omalu said the proposition that Clark was assailing the officers, meaning he was facing them, is "inconsistent with the prevailing forensic evidence." He said it was unclear if Clark would have survived had he gotten immediate medical attention.

A day after the shooting, police distributed a news release that said the officers who shot Clark "saw the suspect facing them, advance forward with his arms extended, and holding an object in his hands."

Police video of the shooting doesn't clearly capture all that happened after Clark ran into his grandmother's backyard. Clark initially moved toward the officers, who were peeking out from behind a corner of the house, but it's unclear if he was facing them or knew they were there when they opened fire after shouting "gun, gun, gun."

After 20 shots, officers called to him, apparently believing he might still be alive and armed. They eventually approached and found no gun, just a cellphone.

Associated Press reporters Sophia Bollag and Don Thompson in Sacramento and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

Michigan faces tall order against 'Nova in NCAA title game

By JOHN MARSHALL, AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Michigan's game plan used to revolve around offense, hitting enough shots to outscore teams. Sometimes it worked. Many times, often on the biggest stages, it didn't.

The Wolverines have made a shift in recent years, transforming into one of the nation's best defensive teams. If shots aren't falling, they can always win with defense.

It's gotten them to the national title game for the first time since 1989.

Now Michigan faces its biggest challenge yet: trying to stop Villanova's horde of long-range shooters in Monday night's national title game.

Good luck.

"That's as good a team as we've played that I can remember," Kansas coach Bill Self said after the Wildcats crushed his Jayhawks with a barrage of 3-pointers in the national semifinals Saturday night.

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Michigan (33-7) reached the title game by taking away Cinderella's slipper, sending Loyola-Chicago and Sister Jean home a game short of completing their divine run.

Villanova bombed its way past a blue blood to get there.

The Wildcats (35-4) turned a Final Four showdown with fellow No. 1 seed Kansas into a laughter, dropping in 3-pointers like they were playing pop-a-shot in the 95-79 rout. Villanova made a Final Four-record 18 3s in a record-matching 40 attempts, its second trip in three seasons to the title game never in doubt.

That's an NCAA record 442 from the arc this season — and they're still counting.

"I feel bad for Kansas," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "They're a great team, we just made every shot."

The third-seeded Wolverines (33-7) had a bit more trouble against the bracket's favorite underdogs, overcoming a frightful first half to send nun-turned-motivator Sister Jean Delores Schmidt headed to the exits early.

The Wolverines trailed the bracket-rambling Ramblers by seven at halftime, found the right gear in the second and have a title-game appearance no one outside of Ann Arbor saw coming when they were middling in the Big Ten just a month ago.

Now that they're done playing the favorite for a night, it's back to the underdog role against Villanova.

"The whole villain thing, you guys love to write about it, talk about it, but at the end of the day it's just basketball, you know?" Michigan big man Moe Wagner said. "And we just try to win. That's all we do.

Their next task: find some way to slow Villanova's 3-ball roll.

The Wildcats were one of the most proficient 3-point shooting teams during the regular season and upped the 3 ante in the NCAA Tournament, knocking down a record 65 and counting. Villanova broke the Final Four record with 13 in the first half and literally shot the lights out by the second, when some scoreboards and upper-level lights briefly went out and darkened the upper decks.

"It was one of those nights where we were able to make shots and that's what the lead looks like," said Villanova's Jalen Brunson, who had 18 points and six assists.

Michigan may have a better answer than the Jayhawks had.

Tired of watching victories fizzle away through defensive deficiencies, coach John Beilein made a philosophical change, putting an emphasis on that side of the ball.

It's worked out well.

Michigan had the nation's No. 3 defense efficiency-wise and put Loyola on lockdown in the second half, forcing the Ramblers into a rash of turnovers to race away.

"We always talk about getting the domino going," Loyola coach Porter Moser said. "They closed that gap of opportunity in a hurry."

Villanova has a way of doing that, too.

The Wolverines may have an answer in Wagner.

The German big man carried Michigan through its struggles in the first half by using his size advantage against the smaller Ramblers, snagging five offensive rebounds to notch a double-double by halftime.

Wagner finished with 24 points and 15 rebound to join Hakeem Olajuwon and Larry Bird as the only players to have at least 20 points and 15 rebounds in a national semifinal game.

"He's unbelievable. He's one of those dynamic scorers from the post, he's a great passer, made some unbelievable passers today with both hands," Villanova assistant coach Ashley Howard said. "He's a guy they can play through. We'll watch tape, try to figure out the best way to approach going into Monday night's game. It's going to be a challenge and we're looking forward to it."

More AP college basketball: <https://collegebasketball.ap.org> ; https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 and <https://www.podcastone.com/ap-sports-special-events>

#MeToo movement looms over jury selection in Bill Cosby case

By KRISTEN DE GROOT, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The #MeToo movement will be looming over the proceedings when jury selection gets underway Monday in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial. But experts say that could cut both ways for the comedian.

It could make some potential jurors more hostile toward him and others more likely to think men are being unfairly accused.

"We really have had this explosion of awareness since that last trial, and it has changed the entire environment," said Richard Gabriel, a jury consultant who has worked on over 1,000 trials. "It is a huge challenge for the defense, but it could also provide an avenue and open up the topic."

A jury deadlocked last June at the former TV star's first trial after Cosby's lawyers managed to sow enough doubt in the minds of a few jurors. That was before the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct started toppling famous men in rapid succession, among them Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, Kevin Spacey and Sen. Al Franken.

Veteran lawyers and jury consultants say #MeToo will make the process of picking 12 jurors more complex and raise the stakes even higher.

The defense is likely to use attitudes toward the movement to weed out jurors.

"There may be a juror who says, 'I don't have an opinion about Cosby, but the #MeToo is very important to me,'" said Melissa M. Gomez, a jury expert and author of the book "Jury Trials Outside In." "That person is still very dangerous to the defense."

Cosby, 80, is charged with drugging and molesting Andrea Constand, a former Temple University athletics administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Last year, after more than 52 hours of jury deliberations over six days, the judge declared a mistrial. One juror said the panel was split 10-2 in favor of conviction, while another said the group of seven men and five women was more evenly divided.

A juror who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said he was suspicious of Constand's story, questioning why she waited to tell authorities about the alleged assault and suggesting the clothing she wore to Cosby's house had influenced his view of their encounter.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

In the first trial, jury selection was moved to Pittsburgh over defense fears that widespread publicity could make it difficult to find unbiased jurors in the Philadelphia area. Cosby has a retooled legal team, led by former Michael Jackson lawyer Tom Mesereau, which didn't seek such measures this time.

Last year's case was mostly he-said-she-said, but the judge agreed last month to let the jury at the retrial hear from an additional five women who have accused Cosby, giving prosecutors a chance to portray the man once known as "America's Dad" as a serial predator.

"It's going to be much more difficult for the defense to chip away at all six, especially if there is a common thread and story," Gomez said. "That shows a pattern of behavior."

Typically prosecutors and defense attorneys can take what happened at the first trial, learn from it and improve on it in the retrial. But some experts say the climate surrounding sexual assault has changed so thoroughly that both sides should go back to the drawing board.

"There is no question that this is a very difficult time to try someone who has been accused of sexual assault," said Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz. "For some jurors the whole movement will be on trial, because Cosby has been the poster person for this kind of accusation."

At a hearing last month, Cosby lawyer Becky James argued it would be difficult to find an impartial jury in this climate: "There's no way we will get a jury that hasn't heard these allegations against not just Mr. Cosby but many other celebrities." But Judge Steven O'Neill scoffed at the notion Cosby cannot get a fair trial.

Jury experts said the key is getting potential jurors to open up about their personal experiences sur-

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rounding sexual assault and misconduct, something that might be better done behind closed doors, in the judge's chambers, where people might be more likely to speak freely.

"Without getting it out in the open, it can be underneath the surface," Gabriel said. "The hidden bias is always the most dangerous bias."

Philip K. Anthony, CEO of trial consultant firm DecisionQuest, said he has found jurors often don't know as much about newsy topics like the #MeToo movement as lawyers might anticipate. He also said he has found jurors want to do the right thing.

"In a case with a lot of notoriety, jurors work even harder to reach a fair and impartial decision," he said.

Some see bitter Wisconsin race as next midterm barometer

By **SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Eric Holder came to town to campaign for the liberal candidate, and his group dumped \$165,000 into the race. Joe Biden, Corey Booker and Gabby Giffords endorsed her, and more money came from a fundraiser in San Francisco. Meanwhile, Wisconsin Republicans poured in \$400,000 to support the conservative candidate, the state's largest business group tripled that and the National Rifle Association publicly backed him.

The race drawing so much heat isn't for Senate or even Congress. It's for Wisconsin Supreme Court — a supposedly nonpartisan office that is the latest election to be treated as a barometer of voter attitudes heading into the fall midterms.

"As the first statewide race in the nation, this is our chance to set the tone for 2018," read an invitation to the San Francisco fundraiser for Rebecca Dallet, the liberal-leaning Milwaukee judge. A Dallet win "is a critical first step in proving our values can prevail in swing states across the country," it added.

Dallet faces Michael Screnock, a county judge who was appointed by GOP Gov. Scott Walker and has received Walker's endorsement, in Tuesday's election.

Conservatives are trying to keep their 5-2 majority on a high court that has been a reliable ally for Walker and his legislative agenda. The court upheld Walker's signature 2011 law that effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers and more recently stopped a secretive probe into Walker and conservative groups over alleged illegal campaign coordination.

Democrats feel emboldened after a surprise win in January for a state Senate seat held by a Republican for 17 years in a district Donald Trump won by 14 points. Democrats hope to keep the momentum going with a Dallet win ahead of two special legislative elections this summer.

"It seems like people are looking everywhere for signs of what may happen in November," said Douglas Keith, an attorney with the Brennan Center for Justice, which tracks spending on court races nationwide. "I have no doubt whatever the outcome of this race, that's how people will talk about it afterward."

Wisconsin's Supreme Court elections have been expensive and partisan battles for more than a decade. Spending on TV ads in the race likely will end up around \$4.5 million, about what was spent on the 2016 race, according to the Brennan Center.

While there's no doubt that Democrats this year are more energized than Republicans, it's dubious whether one election can be an accurate bellwether of what's to come in November, said Ryan Owens, a law professor at the University of Wisconsin who heads the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership.

The race's predictive ability for the November midterms could be tempered by low turnout. In seven contested elections for Supreme Court since 2000, average turnout was 21.5 percent — less than half of the 50 percent average for the past four midterm elections.

Mark Graul, a Republican strategist, pointed to Supreme Court elections in 2007 and 2008 where conservative candidates won, victories that came in between huge Democratic wins in the fall 2006 and 2008 elections.

"These Supreme Court races always come down to the candidate. In general, the candidate with the better profile wins every time," Graul said.

Dallet, 48, has run as a tough-on-crime judge, focusing on her 11 years of experience as a prosecutor

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followed by 10 years working as a judge in Milwaukee. She's argued the conservative-controlled court is "broken," and she's criticized the justices for not adopting a recusal rule forcing them to step down from cases involving large campaign donors.

Screnock, 48, has branded Dallet a hypocrite for taking donations from attorneys arguing cases before her court in Milwaukee, something state law permits. Dallet argues those donations, which totaled about \$21,000, are small in comparison to the roughly \$1.3 million being spent by the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce to help Screnock. He's declined to promise to step aside in cases involving the chamber.

He's also refused to promise to step aside in abortion-related cases, although he was twice arrested for blocking access to a Madison abortion clinic during his college days in the 1980s.

Screnock has said he's devoted to the rule of law and a strict interpretation of the Constitution. He argues that his experience overseeing the finances in Ashland and running city government in Washburn and Reedsburg, together with his nearly nine years' experience as a private practice attorney before Walker appointed him in 2015, sets him apart from Dallet.

As an attorney, Screnock defended Walker's collective bargaining law and political boundary maps drawn by the Republican-controlled Legislature that are now subject to a U.S. Supreme Court case alleging they amount to unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering.

The winner of Tuesday's election will be on the state court during the next round of redistricting that follows the 2020 census.

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'Hope and dignity:' Pope calls for peace in Easter message

VATICAN CITY (AP) — On Christianity's most joyful day, Pope Francis called for peace in a world marked by war and conflict, "beginning with the beloved and long-suffering land of Syria" and extending to Israel, where 15 Palestinians were killed on the Israeli-Gaza border two days before Easter Sunday.

Francis reflected on the power of Christianity's core belief — that Jesus rose from the dead following crucifixion — in his formal "Urbi et Orbi" Easter message delivered from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to a packed square of some 80,000 faithful below.

The pontiff said the message of the resurrection offers hope in a world "marked by so many acts of injustice and violence," including parts of Africa affected by "hunger, endemic conflicts and terrorism."

"It bears fruits of hope and dignity where there are deprivation and exclusion, hunger and unemployment; where there are migrants and refugees, so often rejected by today's culture of waste, and victims of the drug trade, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery," the pope said.

Francis called for a "swift end" to the seven years of carnage in Syria, demanding that aid be delivered to the war-torn country's needy and calling for "fitting conditions for the returned and the displaced."

The pope also urged reconciliation in Israel, a place "experiencing in these days the wounds of ongoing conflict that do not spare the defenseless." His remarks followed the Friday deaths of Palestinian protesters who charged toward Gaza's border with Israel, the area's deadliest violence in four years.

Turning to Asia, Francis expressed hope that talks underway could bring peace to the Korean peninsula, urging "those who are directly responsible act with wisdom and discernment to promote the good of the Korean people."

The pope also urged more steps to bring harmony to divided Ukraine, called for peace in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo and appealed for the world not to forget victims of conflict, especially children.

"May there be no lack of solidarity with all those forced to leave their native lands and lacking the bare essentials for living," said Francis, who has often championed the cause of migrants and refugees.

The church's first pontiff from Latin America cited in particular the problems in Venezuela. He said he hoped the country would "find a just, peaceful and humane way to surmount quickly the political and

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humanitarian crises that grip it.”

Earlier, tens of thousands of faithful underwent heavy security checks to enter St. Peter's Square to participate in Easter Sunday Mass celebrated by the pope, followed by his "Urbi et Orbi" message ("to the city and the world.")

Security precautions included bag checks and metal detector wands for everyone entering the square, while the main avenue leading to the Vatican, as well as smaller adjoining streets, were closed to traffic.

Francis opened Easter festivities with a tweet to his global flock: "Our faith is born on Easter morning: Jesus is alive! The experience is at the heart of the Christian message."

Elsewhere, hundreds of Christians marked Easter by flocking to Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the site where they believe Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected.

Trump administration backs PLO in victims' high court appeal

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite its bumpy relationship with the Palestinians, the Trump administration is siding with the Palestine Liberation Organization in urging the Supreme Court to reject an appeal from American victims of terrorist attacks in the Middle East more than a decade ago.

The victims are asking the high court to reinstate a \$654 million verdict against the PLO and Palestinian Authority in connection with attacks in Israel in 2002 and 2004 that killed 33 people and wounded hundreds more.

The case was scheduled to be considered at the justices' private conference on Thursday. A decision to reject the appeal could come as early as Monday. If the court decides to hear the case, it could say so by the middle of this month.

The federal appeals court in New York tossed out the verdict in 2016. It said U.S. courts can't consider lawsuits against foreign-based groups over random attacks that were not aimed at the United States.

The victims sued under the Anti-Terrorism Act, signed into law in 1992. The law was passed to open U.S. courts to victims of international terrorism, spurred by the killing of American Leon Klinghoffer during a 1985 terrorist attack aboard the Achille Lauro cruise ship.

The victims argued that offices the Palestinians maintain in the nation's capital to promote their cause in speeches and media appearances and to retain lobbyists were sufficient to allow the lawsuit in an American court. The appeals court disagreed.

In late June, the justices asked the administration to weigh in on the case, as they often do in cases with foreign policy implications. The Justice Department filed its brief eight months later, saying there was nothing in the appeals court ruling to "warrant this court's intervention at this time."

In unusually strong language for a Supreme Court filing, Theodore Olson, the lawyer for the victims, wrote, "The government is not being square with the court." Olson said the administration was being cagey about its view of the law, even after the lower court cut back on its use by attack victims to try to hold groups financially liable.

If the appeals court decision is left in place, it would close the courthouse door to U.S. victims of "many acts of terrorism overseas in which terrorists maim and kill indiscriminately, without regard to nationality," Olson said. He pointed to recent attacks in Belgium, Britain, France and Spain as examples. Even Klinghoffer's relatives would have no case, unless they could prove he was killed because he was American, rather than Jewish, he said.

The administration said it is "far from clear" that so many claims would be kept out of court.

Democrats and Republicans in both houses of Congress also are calling on the court to take up the victims' case. "The Trump administration had the opportunity to stand with American victims of terrorism by defending and restoring the law. But it failed to do so. The Supreme Court should not," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a sponsor of the law, wrote in an essay on medium.com.

The jury award in February 2015 came during President Barack Obama's administration. The Justice Department at that point took no position, but urged the judge to take into account the financial implica-

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tions for the Palestinian Authority, which could be hurt by enforcement of the judgment against it. A U.S. official wrote in court papers that the United States has provided billions of dollars to strengthen Palestinian institutions, promote security in the West Bank, expand Palestinian economic growth and help create conditions for peace.

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has infuriated the Palestinians by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announcing plans to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

The Palestinians also have called on the court to reject the appeal.

The attacks occurred in and around Jerusalem during a wave of violence known as the second, or Al-Aqsa, intifada. The jury found the PLO and Palestinian Authority liable for six attacks and awarded \$218 million in damages. The award was automatically tripled under the law.

Rally seeks justice for black man shot by police in backyard

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The family of Stephon Clark joined hundreds at a rally Saturday, urging California's capital city not to let his memory or calls for police reform fade nearly two weeks after the 22-year-old unarmed black man was killed by Sacramento officers.

Clark's fiancée, Salena Manni, stood on stage with his two young sons, grandmother and uncle for the gathering organized by Sacramento native and former NBA player Matt Barnes, who pledged to create a scholarship fund for the children of black men killed by police.

"All he wanted to do was go see his sons again, and unfortunately he can't," Curtis Gordon, Clark's uncle, said as he recalled seeing his nephew hours before the shooting. "So remember that — while we mourn, while we shout, while we cry — because it ain't just our pain, it's their pain."

Barnes amplified calls for charges against the two officers who are on administrative leave.

"It's more than color — it comes down to right and wrong," he said. "You're trying to tell me I can kill someone and get a paid vacation?"

The peaceful demonstration that drew between 200 and 300 people to a downtown park came a day after a private autopsy released by the family showed Clark was shot from behind.

Clark was killed March 18 by two police officers responding to a call of someone breaking into car windows. They yelled that he had a gun before shooting, but it was only a cellphone. The police department says it has not received an official autopsy report from the county coroner's office.

Activists and faith leaders called for justice not just for Clark, but for all black men killed by police. Family members of Joseph Mann, who was killed by Sacramento police in 2016, also spoke. The chairman of a police oversight commission urged attendees to continue their activism by showing up to meetings and pushing for systemic change.

Community leaders urged the city to set a national example.

"This little small town can show this nation our great big heart," the Rev. Kevin Ross said.

The night before, several hundred protesters marched through downtown streets for nearly four hours, with Black Lives Matter Sacramento leaders diffusing tensions on several occasions to keep the march peaceful.

About 150 people attended another vigil and protest Saturday night outside a sheriff's department office. It was the latest disruptive but mostly peaceful demonstration since Clark was killed.

Protesters have twice blocked fans from entering games involving the NBA's Sacramento Kings at a downtown arena, but there were no signs of trouble amid a big police presence at a game Saturday night against the Golden State Warriors.

The Friday release of the private autopsy commissioned by Clark's family has prompted fresh outrage. Pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu, known for his study of a degenerative brain condition in football players, announced that Clark was hit by eight bullets — six in the back, one in the neck and one in the thigh — and took three to 10 minutes to die. Police waited about five minutes before rendering medical aid.

Omalu said the proposition that Clark was assailing the officers, meaning he was facing them, is "incon-

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sistent with the prevailing forensic evidence." He said it was unclear if Clark would have survived had he gotten immediate medical attention.

A day after the shooting, police distributed a news release that said the officers who shot Clark "saw the suspect facing them, advance forward with his arms extended, and holding an object in his hands."

Police video of the shooting doesn't clearly capture all that happened after Clark ran into his grandmother's backyard. Clark initially moved toward the officers, who were peeking out from behind a corner of the house, but it's unclear if he was facing them or knew they were there when they opened fire after shouting "gun, gun, gun."

After 20 shots, officers called to him, apparently believing he might still be alive and armed. They eventually approached and found no gun, just a cellphone.

Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, called Clark's death tragic and said it "raises a number of very serious questions." He said he supports the state attorney general's independent oversight of the investigation.

Associated Press reporters Sophia Bollag and Don Thompson in Sacramento and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

New Asian-American, Brazilian apostles make Mormon history

By BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Mormon church made history and injected a bit of diversity into a previously all-white top leadership panel on Saturday by selecting the first-ever Latin-American apostle and the first-ever apostle of Asian ancestry.

The selections of Ulisses Soares of Brazil and Gerrit W. Gong, a Chinese-American, were announced during a twice-annual conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. The choices triggered excitement among a contingent of Mormons who for years have been hoping for the faith's top leadership to be more representative of a religion that has more than half of its 16 million members outside the United States.

"It's a sign that the church is for everyone," said Guilherme De Castro, a 37-year-old Mormon from Brazil who was in attendance for the announcement. "It doesn't matter where you are from or the way you look."

The selections come during a two-day conference happening as the faith grapples with heightened scrutiny about its handling of sexual abuse reports and one-on-one interviews between local lay leaders and youth. Mormon leaders hadn't spoken about the topic as of Saturday afternoon, but a person in attendance yelled several times, "Stop protecting sexual predators," as new people were announced to second-tier leadership posts.

The outburst came one day after about 1,000 current and former Mormons marched to the church's headquarters in Salt Lake City, delivering petitions demanding an end to closed door, one-on-one interviews between youth and lay leaders where sexual questions sometimes arise.

The church changed policy this week to now allow children to bring a parent or adult with them to the interviews, but protesters said that doesn't go far enough to keep children safe. The change came as part of more revisions to sexual abuse reporting guidelines following recent revelations that a former prominent missionary leader was accused of sexually assaulting two women in the 1980s. The ex-leader denied the allegations.

It was the first conference presided over by new church President Russell M. Nelson. His choices for the two open leadership spots sparked hope that the 93-year-old former heart surgeon will focus on the globalization of the faith during his tenure. He is set to embark on a trip in April to visit eight cities in Europe, Africa and Asia, including Hong Kong.

The last time there were openings on the quorum, in October 2015, the church chose three Utah men. Past church president Thomas S. Monson, who died in January, was leading the church at the time. The religion believes church presidents choose new Quorum members with the help of divine revelation.

The choices mark the strongest statement in favor of global diversity by senior church leadership since

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1978 when the church lifted a ban on black men in the lay clergy, allowing the church to spread to Brazil, Africa and elsewhere, said Mormon scholar Patrick Mason, associate professor of religion at Claremont Graduate University in California. He said most people were hoping for at best one new non-white leader, so the double selection will be welcomed with enthusiasm throughout the religion.

The announcement sparked a wave of tweets and other social media posts, some by Mormons who said they never thought they would see the day.

Soares and Gong join a panel called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles that, before Saturday, was made up entirely of white men from the U.S. with the exception of one German, Dieter Uchtdorf.

The all-male panel sits below President Nelson and his two counselors and helps set church policy and oversees the faith's business interests. The new appointees start as junior members, but they could someday become church president because the group's longest-tenured member ascends to president when the current one dies.

They join a quorum undergoing a substantial turnover following a string of deaths as previous leaders succumbed to the effects of aging. Five of the 12 panel members have been appointed in the past three years. Prior to 2015, it had been six years since a new quorum member was chosen, and more than a decade since the leadership council had two openings.

Like the previous 12 men chosen for the panel, Soares and Gong were serving in a lower-level leadership called Quorum of the Seventy that that has served as a farm system for the governing body.

The 59-year-old Soares was an accountant and auditor for multinational corporations in Brazil before joining church leadership, according to a church biography. He was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The 64-year-old Gong worked for the U.S. State Department, the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies and Mormon-owned Brigham Young University before being selected for the lower-tier church leadership panel. He was born in Redwood City, California. His grandparents immigrated to the United States from China.

The new selections reflect the "rising focus of church leadership on the world outside the United States, where the church is growing most rapidly," said Mormon scholar Matthew Bowman, an associate professor of history at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

With 1.4 million members, Brazil has the second-most Mormon in the world along with Mexico, according to church figures. Both rank behind the United States, which has about 6.6 million members.

Nelson has long had a special interest in China, Bowman said. He speaks Mandarin and spent time there during his professional career. It's possible Nelson is hoping Gong's selection could help establish a stronger foothold in the Asian country that currently doesn't officially recognize the religion and only allows certain activities, Bowman said.

It is estimated that there are at least 10,000 church members in mainland China, most of which are native Chinese members, though there are no official church estimates because the Chinese government does not recognize the religion, said Matt Martinich, an independent Mormon researcher.

Of the 116 highest-ranking church leaders serving in several tiers, 40 percent of them were born outside the U.S, said Dallin H. Oaks, first counselor to President Nelson, on Saturday.

The diversity in leadership should help broaden conversations about race and ethnicity and add new prisms through which the gospel is viewed, said Ignacio Garcia, a professor of Western and Latino history at Mormon-owned Brigham Young University.

Making a sports analogy, Garcia said the religion has many great minority leaders on the "bench" (mid-tier leadership councils) and now for first time, two in the "starting lineup" (Quorum of the Twelve).

It's likely an indication of the religion's future since indigenous members are who will help sustain the church going forward, Garcia said.

"Those are the ones that are growing: black and brown and Asian," he said. "That's the future of the church."

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Spy case: Russia, US envoys leave Washington, St. Petersburg

By JIM HEINTZ and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian diplomats and their families climbed aboard buses and left their embassy in Washington on Saturday while across the Atlantic, American envoys took down the flag from outside the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, loaded up boxes, closed the office down and headed home.

The moves were the latest in a spy poisoning case that has escalated East-West tensions, with both sides expelling more than 150 of each other's diplomats from two dozen countries.

Britain has insisted that the Russian government was behind the nerve agent poisoning of a former Russian spy and his daughter March 4 in the English city of Salisbury, a charge the Russians vehemently deny.

The Tass news agency says all of the 60 Russian diplomats ordered out of the United States were heading for a homebound flight on Saturday night.

In St. Petersburg, workers at the US consulate hurried to meet the Saturday deadline to close the consulate, imposed by Russia just two days earlier. In brief comments to reporters, U.S. Consul-General Thomas Leary said "we are ready to leave."

A truck with bags and boxes left the consulate in the late afternoon, its driver waving and honking his horn several times. Outside the elegant 19th-century building, someone had placed four yellow tulips and a card from neighbors reading "hope to see you again."

City workers came to inspect the building late Saturday, but it was not clear if all the staff had departed. Russians watching the activity expressed mixed views on the consulate's closure.

"The American side always knows that we can strike back if we are attacked," said Valentina Petrova, 77. But 24-year-old Artem Zykov saw it differently.

"Russia should have found different mechanisms to respond without such radical measures," Zykov said.

British officials, meanwhile, said Saturday the government is considering Russia's request for access to the daughter of the former Russian double agent. Russian officials insist they have a legal right to see 33-year-old Yulia Skripal, who lived in Moscow and was visiting her father, Sergei Skripal, in Salisbury when they were attacked with a nerve agent that apparently came through his front door.

The Foreign Office said it was reviewing the Russian request "in line with our obligations under international and domestic law," adding that the government's consideration will include "the rights and wishes of Yulia Skripal."

British officials say she is recovering in the hospital while her 66-year-old father remains in critical condition.

The Russian Embassy in London called her recovery "good news" in a tweet Friday and said Russian diplomats had a right to see her under the 1968 Consular Convention.

The Russian Foreign Ministry on Saturday also issued lists of questions it wants Britain and France to answer in the case, including to what extent French investigators have been involved in probing the poisoning and why.

Russia contends that Britain is exploiting "Russophobia" to undermine Moscow. On Saturday, its London embassy issued a statement warning Russians travelling to the U.K. that they could be subject to "provocations" including having various items planted in their luggage.

In another illustration of the deteriorating relations, the Russian Embassy in Britain complained about the alleged search of a Russian airliner at London's Heathrow Airport.

The embassy said British Border Forces and Customs officers searched an Aeroflot flight from Moscow on Friday in violation of international rules. In a tweet, the embassy called it "another blatant provocation by the British authorities."

British officials responded Saturday that it's routine to search some incoming flights. Russia has sent a diplomatic note demanding an explanation of the search, which delayed the flight to Moscow.

Katz reported from London. Lynn Berry in Washington and Irina Titova in St. Petersburg contributed.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2018. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 1968, "2001: A Space Odyssey," the groundbreaking science-fiction film epic produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

On this date:

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1800, Ludwig van Beethoven premiered his Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21, in Vienna.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1932, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in The Bronx, New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child, who was not returned, was found dead the following month.)

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra recorded "American Patrol" at the RCA Victor studios in Hollywood.

In 1956, the soap operas "As the World Turns" and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1974, French President Georges Pompidou, 62, died in Paris.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1992, mob boss John Gotti was convicted in New York of murder and racketeering; he was later sentenced to life, and died in prison.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush suffered a diplomatic setback when NATO allies rebuffed his pleas to put former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on the path toward membership. Irish Taoiseach (TEE'-shuk) Bertie Ahern, who helped broker peace in Northern Ireland but couldn't survive a scandal over his collection of cash from businessmen, announced he would resign.

Five years ago: North Korea said it would restart its long-shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material in what outsiders saw as its latest attempt to extract U.S. concessions by raising fears of war. Pope Francis prayed before the tomb of Pope John Paul II on the eighth anniversary of the beloved pontiff's death. Irish character actor Milo O'Shea, 86, died in New York.

One year ago: President Donald Trump brought Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., to his Virginia golf course to talk health policy with the outspoken critic of the failed plan to repeal and replace so-called "Obamacare." Jason Aldean was named entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards held in Las Vegas; Miranda Lambert's "The Weight of These Wings" won album of the year, Florida Georgia Line's "H.O.L.Y." won single of the year, and song of the year went to "Die a Happy Man" by Thomas Rhett. A'ja Wilson scored 23 points to help coach Dawn Staley and South Carolina win their first women's NCAA championship with a 67-55 victory over Mississippi State.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sharon Acker is 83. Actress Dame Penelope Keith is 78. Actress Linda Hunt is 73. Singer Emmylou Harris is 71. Actor Sam Anderson is 71. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 71. Actress Pamela Reed is 69. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 69. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 57. Actor Christopher Meloni is 57. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 57. Country singer Billy Dean is 56. Actor Clark Gregg is 56. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 54. Rock musician Greg Camp is 51. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 49. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 45. Country singer Jill King is

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43. Actor Pedro Pascal is 43. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 43. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 42. Actor Michael Fassbender is 41. Actress Jaime Ray Newman is 40. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 39. Actress Bethany Joy Galeotti is 37. Singer Lee Dewyze (TV: "American Idol") is 32. Country singer Chris Janson is 32. Actor Drew Van Acker is 32. Actress Briga Heelan (TV: "Great News") is 31. Actor Jesse Plemons is 30. Singer Aaron Kelly (TV: "American Idol") is 25.

Thought for Today: "Failure has a thousand explanations. Success doesn't need one." — Sir Alec Guinness, British actor (born this date in 1914, died 2000).